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THE APPLICATION
of the THEORIES
of MOTIVATION
and COMMUNICATION
to
ADULT
CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

"Extended Paper"

for

Professor C. Ellis Nelson

by

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I. INTRODUCTION

The rationale for this paper is quite simple. Nearly every respected leader in Christian education somewhere claims that the key to a successful educational ministry rests pivotally upon a vital adult education program. Having stated the problem, nearly every specialist in Christian education goes on to address other areas of concern which have little or nothing to do with adults.

The author of this paper agrees that the fulcrom of a meaningful educational ministry is the growing point of the adult membership. Yet as he has surveyed the literature and sought advice he has felt quite like the patient who is told that, "Yes, you are sick," only to have the physician turn his back and continue his rounds.

The author of this paper is quite conscious of his own sick attempts at adult Christian education. If some of his later comments sound presumptuous or brash, please note that he writes with the vivid memory of many sleepless nights spent vexing over why his adults were so apparently uninterested in the beautiful jewels and delicious feasts of learning that he had offered to them.

These precious and appetizing adult learning programs were not the author's own. They were gleaned from the thoughtful and artistic labors of those far more erudite and mature in the Faith and in education. So it was all the more frustrating that his adult neighbors scorned his offerings. And so, began a pilgrimage to define the problems and seek answers and - most importantly - attempt a

reconciliation of insights from several of the social sciences, the principles and needs of a vital Christian education ministry, and the ongoing concerns of adult human beings. In brief, this is an attempt to reconcile adult learning with a communicable modality.

While the reader hopefully warms to the subject, let us glance briefly at the history of our adult education problems and then focus on the present state of confusion.

A. The History of Planned Learning for Adult Christians.

Confining our scan from the present back to the start of the Sunday School Movement (and omitting medieval catechetics, morality plays, etc.) the attempts of the Church to plan learning for adults have been sincere but spotty, ambitious but ambiguous.

1. Protestant attempts at planned adult learning. When adult classes appeared in large numbers in our Protestant churches in the 1890's they were designed quite explicitly as instruments of evangelism. Every group had a sense of outreach. Its purpose was to bring in and "educate" the non-Christian. If the group was not centered on direct indoctrination of the non-Christian adult it was centered on preparing converted Christian adults for more effective evangelism.

Two further generalizations can be made about the Protestant interest in adult learning. First, there seemed to be a universal attempt to avoid the label, "educational." The names of the groups seemed to be chosen on the basis of getting adults together, but not for "schooling." Marshall A. Hudson of Syracuse, for example,

organized his "Baraca," a group to get a secret service started to pray for the unconverted.¹ The ensuing groups - "Philathea" (for women), "Agoga", "Amoma," "Drexel Biddle," "Bereans," "Gleaners," "King's Daughters," "Wesley Bible," "Loyal Movement" - could not by their names be associated with any existing educational program, sacred or secular. During that period of history, however, (from 1890 to 1917) thousands of adults were attracted to these groups. The second generalization concerns the methodology of Protestant adult learning groups. It was a duplication of the lecture systems so popular in those years.² For very legitimate reasons, e.g., lack of radio and television, relatively restrictive travel conditions and scarcity of knowledgeable speakers, an agency-sponsorship was necessary for planned adult learning. It was natural that the churches should pattern their modality after the very successful secular efforts. The "Lyceums," first organized back in 1826 in Milbury, Massachusetts, grew to such an amazingly popular lecture system that by 1914-15, for example, New York City's fathers were willing to appropriate \$140,000 for 5,515 lectures which drew a total of 1,295,907 people.³ The "Chautauqua Institution" formed in 1871 by Bishop J. H. Vincent and Lewis Miller followed an identical

¹ Winthrop S. Hudson, The Great Tradition of the American Churches, Harper, New York, 1953, p. 154

² Lyman Bryson, Adult Education, American Book Co., New York, 1956, p. 14

³ Loc. Cit.

mode of teaching, using famous lecturers for large gatherings of adults.

2. Roman Catholic attempts at planned adult learning.

Two generalizations may also be applied to our Catholic adult educators. When a Catholic layman, Warren E. Mosher, founded the Catholic Educational Union at Lake Champlain in 1892, he admitted that he was favorably impressed by Protestant efforts such as the Chautauqua movement.¹ However, the Catholic effort quickly took on a "defensive" tone similar to that of their parochial school policy. Catholic parents, as well as Catholic children, were threatened by a predominantly Protestant society and so the adult programs were designed to "guard, protect, and defend religious liberty and to promote the restoration of society on the basis of Christian principles."²

The second mark of the Catholic effort in planned adult learning was its willingness to label its program as "educational." There was no attempt to disguise the purpose of adult groups with mysterious names. This is worthy of more than a little note. The Catholic program of adult learning was much more agency-centered in that its curriculum had to be approved by recognized Church

¹ Malcolm MacLellan, The Catholic Church and Adult Education, Catholic University, Washington, D. C., 1935, p. 13

² Ibid, p.43f

authority. The Church authorities apparently saw nothing threatening in labeling this program as "educational." There was, in those years, a certain respectability for adults, especially immigrant adults, to be engaged in educative activity. The federal government and labor unions sponsored programs to teach English and to train adults for new types of work. Inasmuch as the Catholic efforts were addressed to a group who were already involved in "educative" activity, those efforts could safely be labeled "educational." We shall go on to elaborate the importance of this in section B.3.

3. The fate of both Protestant and Catholic attempts at planned learning for adults. Three historical developments tolled the 'death knell' for Protestant, Catholic, and secular adult education programs. The evangelistic emphasis among Protestants had reached its peak around 1910. The groups which were created to mobilize outreach thus withered. (The ensuing depression also hurt religious educators inasmuch as they were the first to be cut back as churches made economies of staff, etc.)¹ Secondly, as immigration passed its flood-tide and as immigrants were successfully integrated into our society, there was no longer a Catholic population involved in secular "education." And, thirdly, except for the remarkable government sponsored Extension Service (Farm and Home Bureaus) and

¹ Robert W. Lynn, Protestant Strategies in Education, Association Press, New York, 1959, p. 37

the short-lived training programs of the WPA, no secular agency seemed inclined to vie for adult interest in planned learning. And thus, the American Association for Adult Education, which was formed in 1926, was soon on its way to a natural death.

We must briefly note how the professional educators, men like Lyman Bryson of Teachers College, tried to fight against the down-hill trend of adult education. Methodology was seen to be the culprit. "Method," he wrote, "is the only substitute for divine inspiration. Knowledge of method distinguishes the professional from the amateur."¹ Obviously we were doing something wrongly and methodology was the first place to look! But in the mid-fifties when adults briefly perked up interest in planned learning no educational philosopher could, with conviction, point to any different methodology. Indeed, many are still puzzled as to why interest in planned adult learning should rise and fall.² Thus inspired by educational philosophers, we may turn our own attention to the present confusion and draw a few observations for each other.

B. Present Unresolved Problems in Planned Learning for Adult Christians.

1. The widening gap between trained and untrained leaders.

One may make the generalization that in nearly every adult learning

¹Lyman Bryson, Op. Cit., p. 71

²Lyman Bryson, The Next America, Harper, New York, 1952, p. 179ff, (Dr. Bryson grieves over the fickleness of adult interest but does not attempt to explain it. He prescribes the addition of spiritual and cultural qualities to adult programs but never really asks what adults consciously want to learn.)

activity there appears to be three groups of leaders: professional leaders, the well-meaning "semi-pros" who assume responsibility, and the rarely trained functional leaders.

Throughout our nation we have a relatively small group of recognized, trained leaders of adult education. To be sure, pitifully few universities offer comprehensive programs for training adult education specialists. But there is a nucleus of professionals which is making a determined impact on the total educational scene.

The professionals are followed by a group which might be called "semi-pros," people who may or may not have any training in adult education who have enlisted or been drafted into planned learning experiences for adults. Each year the Adult Education Association meets to implant enlarged philosophies and methodologies into the world view of both professional and semi-professional adult educators. Work shops, work and seminars seminate but little contact seems to be made with the third, much larger, group of functional leaders of adult learning.

The functional leadership of adult learning do not think of themselves as adult educators. Their common characteristic is their skill in communication. These are the men and women who really change attitudes and transfer large quantities of information.

Consider the contrasts between professional and functional leadership in adult learning! When the Great Books Program ran out of foundation financial support, it was all the easier to see that Time Magazine had probably always reigned as an historical and cultural source for the greatest number of adults in the United States.

This is not necessarily a desirable phenomenon. It simply states that the Great Books Program could not pull its own weight in adult society.

Huntley and Brinkley continue to transfer more knowledge and by their own attitudes mold more adult attitudes than do Professors Schlesinger and Commager.

Billy Graham and Bishop Sheen "teach" more in the name of religion in our country than do either the president of the National Council of Churches or the most senior Roman Catholic Cardinal. And when we consider the importance of Christian education in helping to form national and world policy, we should do more than shudder when the President ignores the collective wisdom of theologians to instead invite Billy Graham to his ranch. It should be frightening, yes - shattering, that we do so little to help key individuals in key positions in our government to learn more from the Christian perspective. This is no academic point that we describe - the gulf between the functional and professional leader!

Arthur Daley and Dick Young have influenced more learning about physical recreation than the most imaginative Outdoor Education Association offerings of the late Dr. L. B. Sharpe, et al.

All this is not to suggest that professional adult educators should become television stars. It is to declare that collectively adult educators are grossly negligent in their approach to communication. Thus far the professional adult educators seem willing to communicate only on their own terms, within channels they select and about material they deem important. Furthermore,

they appear uninterested in the massive informal learning that is continuing amongst adults on every side of them. And, finally, as long as these good people refuse to examine more closely the relationships between communication theory and adult learning, we may safely predict that the gulf between the professional and functional leaders of adult learning will only grow wider!

2. The widening gap between the "educated" and the "uneducated."

While the Domestic Peace Corps is trying to teach half of Chicago's welfare recipients who are illiterate how to read and write, large portions of the educative community are moaning about how the bachelors degree has replaced the high school diploma as the bare minimum of "decent" preparation for employment. Our denominational adult curriculum seems to be committed to help the already "educated" e.g. (Crossroads) and skips blithely ahead without much concern for those who are just newly literate. Our approach to adult learning must bridge this gap.

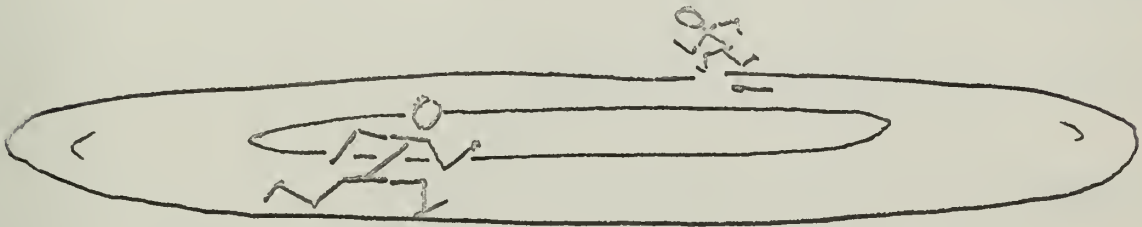
3. The Lack of recognized "mileposts" of achievement.

Professor Ralph B. Spence, of teachers College, tells the story of the man who at the age of 39 volunteered to run in a race. His coach refused to let him. "But," said the man, "I have twenty years' experience." "No," answered the coach, "you have one year's experience twenty times." This describes the sense of achievement of many adults - orbital!

In the overall cultural view of adult learning, a

spiral image of achievement would be very helpful so that at age thirty or sixty, one could see himself in a particular status in his culture. This would differ from an orbital image where we chase endlessly over the same path, regretting our fatigue the older we get and increasing our idolization of youth the more fatigued we become.

Orbital Image



Even if we were getting deep satisfaction from this running it is a dismaying picture. As Paul Goodman put it, "It doesn't add up to anything. It isn't important. There is no ethical necessity in it, no standard. ONE CANNOT WASTE A HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE THAT WAY."^{1.}

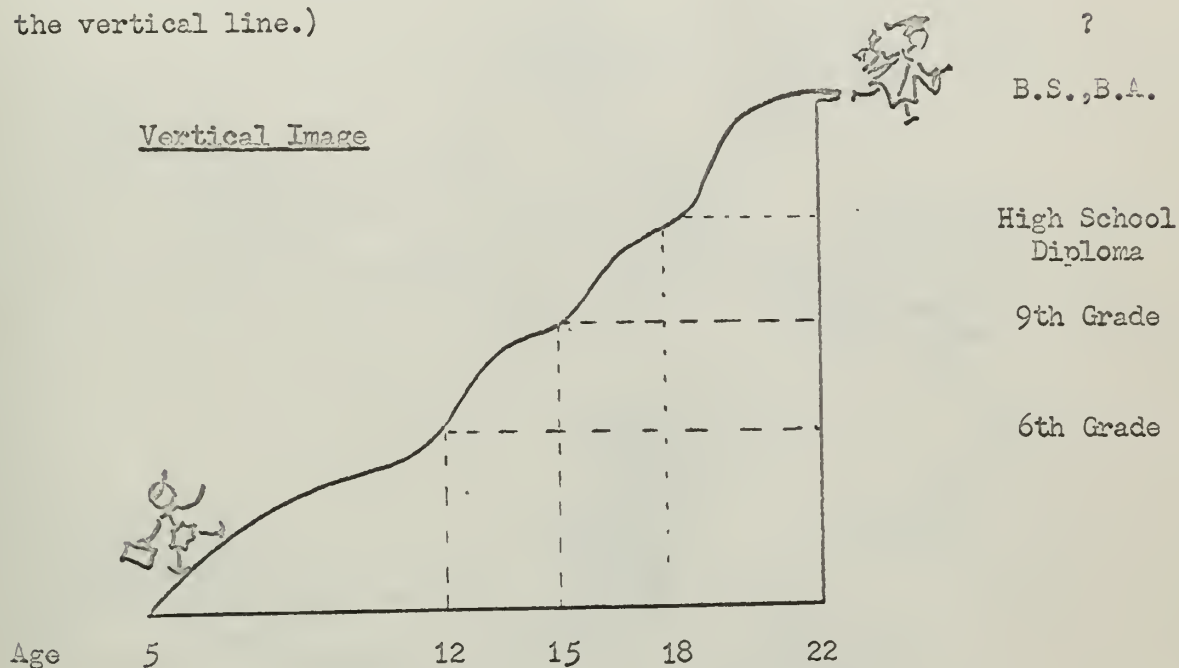
Yet, this is exactly what we have been doing in this country for many years. Years ago Coleridge mused, "In order to have citizens, you must first be sure that you have produced men...There must therefore be a large part of the commonwealth devoted...to the education of the growing up."^{2.} Up, that is. Not - orbital.

Too often our mind shifts simply from an orbital image to a vertical image where things do go up ... for a time.

1. Paul Goodman, Growing Up Absurd, Random House, New York, 1956. p. 234

2. Ibid., p.236

A spiral image would not just be an extension of the sequential unit system initiated in primary grades which is more like a vertical, straight line from which people "graduate" at a commencement. (There are, of course, some who feel that the sequential unit system does become orbital the higher one climbs the vertical line.)

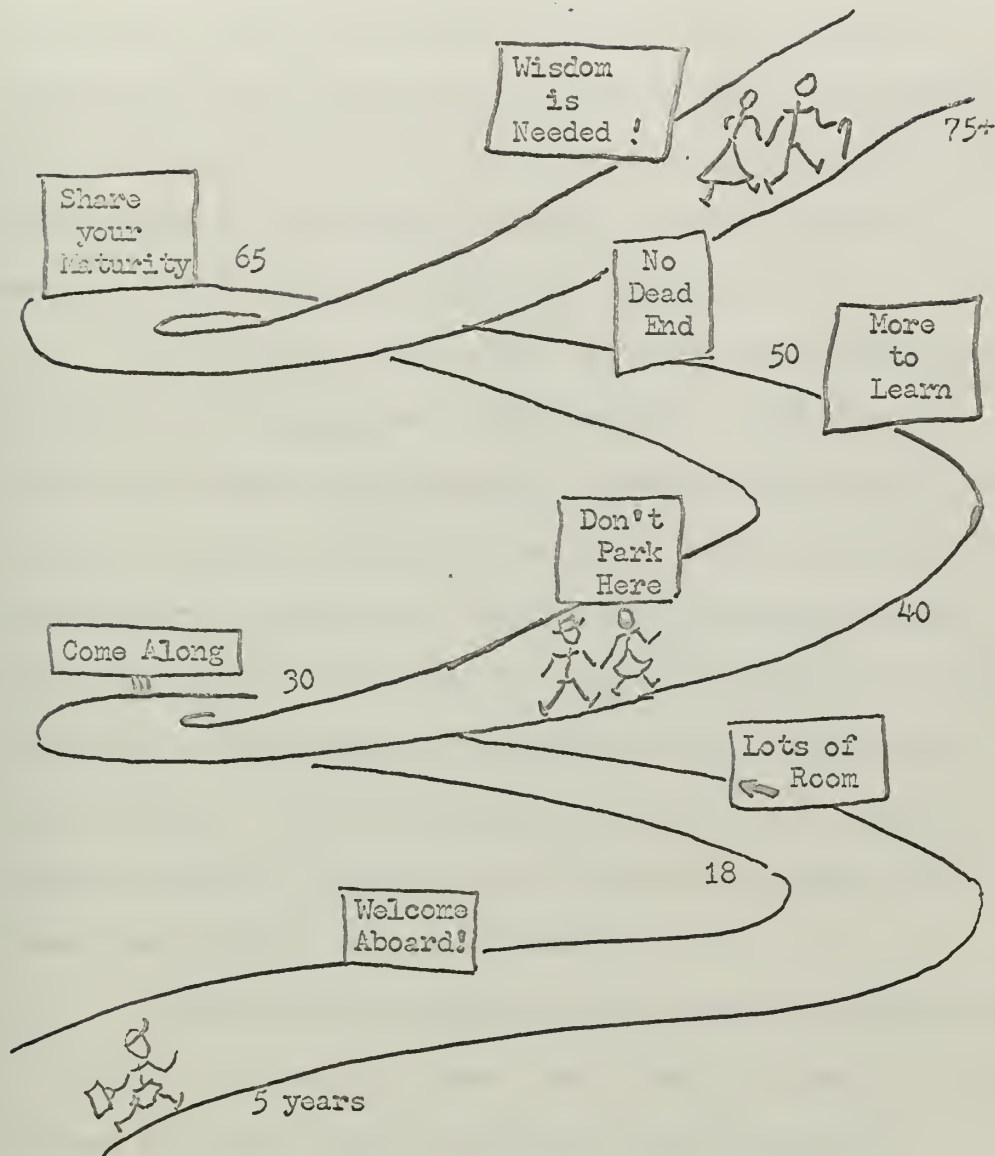


Thus far there is strong evidence that the key to who participates in planned voluntary adult learning is the level of formal education. Johnstone and others are now studying other salient correlates for voluntary learning.

But consider the present indictment on our culture if now the key to participation in learning is the set of credentials of previous learning! Worse yet - consider the silent assumptions of the planners of learning for Christian adults!

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1. John W. C. Johnstone, Volunteers for Learning, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1963.

The spiral, cultural image respects individuals in all stages of their pilgrimage.



We seem to have an American built-in resistance toward hierarchies. We also seem to suffer an unspoken lack after each "commencement" or "achievement". Wisdom of the aging hardly seems worthy of mention in our culture. The spiral image would be a blessed change to our present images!

Say what we will about the Roman Catholic or regal hierarchies of medieval days, a construct of status levels did provide for a spiralling of growth with special respect to maturity and wisdom. This had a fragrance which can be sensed in the Far East today. Paul B. Maves hints at the need for a modern equivalent when he declares that a scale of Christian maturity could be constructed to measure growth.¹ In a pluralistic society with a miasma of specializations this is surely difficult to envisage, but is worthy of some hard thinking.

For example, think of how voluntary adult organizations - especially those without more intellectually, sophisticated leadership - seem to instinctively construct spirals with room at the "top" for their more mature members. Masonic orders seem to the non-Mason to spiral in a complexity of elevating degrees. The late Father Divine labeled his two choirs (humorously to outsiders, but perhaps significantly to insiders): Junior Virgins, and Senior Virgins. The military and civil service are guilty of frequent misuse of "seniority" yet their rank structure seems almost comforting to many participants.

Indeed, one is tempted to note a degree of spiralling in the esoterica of academic climes where there are general faculty meetings and senior faculty meetings, associate and full

¹ Paul B. Maves, "Behavioral Outcomes of the Christian Education of Adults" in L.C. Little, Wider Horizons in Christian Adult Education, University of Pittsburgh, 1962, p. 255

professorships, EdDs, ThDs, and PhDs.

And while Protestants worry over the efficacy of ordination - some hoping to see it abolished - our Catholic brothers go on "knighting" laymen and elevating deserving priests to Domestic Prelates with rank of Right Reverend Monsignor. All of this is quite different from being nominated, after tested years of interest, to an ad hoc committee to "thank the ladies in the kitchen for a delightfully prepared supper of meatloaf and scalloped potatoes."

C. Ellis Nelson rightly stresses the need for a feeling of accomplishment in our planned adult learning. "Adult education in the church," he says, "is often considered inferior because it isn't going anywhere."¹ A spiralling image of adult achievement in the field of learning is a dear omission.

4. The irrespectability of adult learning. Even more basic than the question of achievement is the question of whether adults should be trying to learn anything at any time. This is, in part, a cultural question and in part it is a problem induced by the educative community, itself.

Some experts, like John R. Fry, say that the chief problem in adult education is that "adults don't think they need to learn."²

¹C. Ellis Nelson, "Toward Better Methods of Communicating the Christian Gospel" in L.C. Little, Charting the Future Course of Christian Adult Education in America, University of Pittsburgh, 1958, p. 112

²John R. Fry, A Hard Look at Adult Christian Education, Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1961, p. 4

And on a superficial estimate of the present popularity of adult participation in planned adult learning, one would have to agree. Apartment houses are hardly emptied every night, nor are the streets jammed with adults rushing to take classes. Yet one wants to ask is this a matter of adults really not thinking they need to learn, or is it a matter of poor communication of the opportunities to learn what they want to learn (not what the professionals want them to learn)? Mr. Fry blames the professionals for presupposing what methodology and goals should be imposed on people. He thinks that we too hastily form opinions about what kind of "persons" our adult neighbors are. Yet, his only answer to his own point seems to be that of suggesting another methodology, a kind of university in miniature in every church, with contract ad hoc learning-groups, and where the teachers are books (scripture and fiction).¹ This still does not get at, or around, what is the real image that adults now have of learning. An unresolved present problem is therefore the paramount need to know what the real image of learning among adults is now and what are the real blocks in their attempting to realize that image!

5. Incomplete assessment of the needs of adults.

A. H. Maslow listed the needs of adults in seven categories:²

1. Physiological (including secondary needs,
e.g. comfort)
2. Safety (protection, tenure, savings)

¹ Ibid, p. 122

² A. H. Maslow, Motivation and Personality, Harper, New York, 1954, pp. 80-106

3. Belongingness (love, affection)
4. Esteem (prestige, status, self-confidence)
5. Self-actualization (realization of full potential)
6. To know (understand one's world, set of values)
7. Aesthetic (appreciation of beauty)

Maslow would probably fit any felt religious needs into defense and aesthetic categories. He does not spell this out. But, for that matter, neither does John R. Fry specify any particularly basic religious need. Fry lists six basic needs:¹

1. Food, sex, and shelter
2. Growth (?)
3. Security
4. New experiences
5. Affection
6. Recognition

There seems to be little direct effort (at best only implied) to address planned adult learning to these needs. More to the point, however, is that there is little weighting of these needs (or weighing them as adults weigh them) to ascertain what specifically is desired by a particular adult at a given time and place.

Behavioral scientists, motivational researchers and communication theorists have amassed warehouses full of data concerning attitudes toward adult pursuits and expressed needs. (We are not yet talking about motivation in learning, rather we are referring to adult interests.) What still seems lacking is a skeleton, some kind of framework upon which to organize said data of attitudes and expressed needs and a functional means of actually using feedback

¹ John R. Fry, Op. Cit., p. 39

to assess post-learning evaluations.

6. Incomplete understanding of communication. The more one reads the very thoughtful observations of adult education leaders - religious and secular - the more one is distressed by the omission of the newer insights provided by communication theorists. If planned adult learning is to be genuinely relevant to the conscious needs of adults this omission had better be quickly corrected!

Let us cite one example. One hates to criticize a revered, former professor, especially when that beloved saint has joined the Church Triumphant. However, Louis J. Sherrill's views about communicating Christianity just fall apart when one examines his definition of symbols. He said, for example, that a symbol participates in that something which it represents. "While a symbol serves to communicate meaning...we for our part add to the meaning which the symbol has, by our own act of responding to it."¹ This is utter apostasy to the communication theorist! Symbols do not ever communicate meaning! People attach meaning to symbols they choose to decode.²

Professor Sherrill was safe in saying that symbolism is the language of revelation, the basic language of the Christian community.³

¹ Louis J. Sherrill, The Gift of Power, Macmillan Company, New York, 1955, p. 124f

² Edward T. Hall, The Silent Language, Doubleday & Co., New York, 1959, p. 52

³ Op. Cit., p. 126

It is, after all, rather difficult to have any language without symbols. But symbols are not as he went on to say, "by their own nature evocative."¹ Depending upon a number of conditions, they may or may not be evocative. What does this mean to you? 2

What subliminal feelings does it evoke from your viscera? It is a symbol. Whether or not a symbol is evocative depends on the recipient's previously established patterns, sets and isolates, his current perceptual bias and the degree of energy, clarity and saturation with which that symbol is projected. These will be discussed in the body of the text. Suffice it to say here that one reason for our inability to motivate adults in religious learning is our fuzzy thinking about symbols. (Just think of the havoc which could be caused by assuming that meaning can be communicated by symbols!)

7. Inadequate visions of the visionaries. As far back as 1903, and the formation of the Religious Education Association, "to inspire the educational forces of this country with the religious ideal; to inspire the religious forces of this country with the educational ideal,"³ the pattern of adults who plan adult learning has been ambiguous. The author is not suggesting that he could have

¹ Ibid, p. 127

² This, to a Japanese, is very clear. It is Kyo-ju, "Professor."

³ Robert W. Lynn, Op. Cit., p. 27. Mr. Lynn went on to describe the ambiguities of religious and secular educative communities in thinking about character building and teaching of moral values.

done better. But the pattern of the educational philosophers seem to be consistent in ignoring the conscious, presently felt needs of the people. Sometimes these needs are assumed. Sometimes they are tested with little mimeographed check lists which trigger immediately a long supply of learner's associations. Often the philosophers are truly prophetic in pointing judgementally and futuristically to problems that are yet to materialize. But at best these efforts are slipshod!

On the one hand, Dr. Bryson speculates about a future American federal government (unlike our present form of government) where adults will be much more world-conscious.¹ And on the other hand, John W. Gardner frets about how much talent our society can really absorb.² Is one saying, "Giddap" and the other "Whoa?" One would like to see these experienced visionaries muse over how planned adult learning might have some direct effect on our present form of government and how it might also produce some real talent now!

Harrison S. Elliott pointed out that while adult education was not specifically mentioned in the formation of the REA back in 1903 that it was definitely intended. He went on to say - and this should help the whole effort, really - "God is an educator, for it is in and through the educational process that religion has developed

¹ Lyman Bryson, The Next America, Op. Cit., p. 179

² John W. Gardner, Excellence, Harper Colophon, New York, 1962, p. xii

in the race. It is only through such a process that God becomes known."³ This "educational process" deserves a lot more attention from both educators and theologians. We need at least two books a year of the quality of J. R. Kidd's How Adults Learn and John R. Fry's A Hard Look at Adult Christian Education.

Let us go on from here, then, to look briefly at how adults learn; how adults are motivated in their learning; how the communication process and learning are tied together; how learning, motivation and communication might be purposely blended to spread innovations; and finally - how we might proceed with a program of planned learning for Christian adults.

C. A Tentative Approach.

An attempt will be made in the remainder of this paper to view planned adult learning as continuous communication, i.e. continuous and yet complete!

John Harrell wrote a delightful little book about audio-visual aids entitled, Teaching is Communicating. (Seabury Press, New York, 1965) A much more invigorating theme might be: "Learning is Communicating."

In these next few pages we shall try to look more closely at learning. We shall but skim over the classical theories to get their "taste" and pause to consider more carefully how we learn by communication with our culture and by our own behavior.

There is a sense in which we continue to learn via our immediate world and via our own feelings far more than could be put into any text or degree program. We shall look for ways to capitalize on this way of learning, almost a tactile communication.

If there is an estimated one percent of our adult Protestant population currently involved in planned, church - sponsored learning programs it would seem logical that we also examine motivation for learning and discerning the image adults have of learning. If we can come up with methods of finding out what adults really think about planned learning we may be well on our way to more successful work with them (at least better than one percent!).

It is felt that we should pause to look extra carefully at the process of communication. We often hear people speak of how young psychiatry is as an accepted science. If psychiatry be young - then communication as a science is still a gleam in the technician's eye! World War II brought a crash program in the field of social psychology, out of which is now rolling a torrent of research. The literature seems to have increased geometrically each year, even since 1960.

The fear of World War III has forced us to conceive another infant into the family of social sciences - that of cultural innovation. The demand to help newly developing countries has forced us to sharpen old social tools and create new methods of introducing change. Inasmuch as any change in the field of planned adult learning would be an innovation we think it wise to look here for help as well.

Finally, for the student's own benefit (certainly not mankind's), some goals are set down toward which he would like to work.

CHAPTER III: PLANNED LEARNING

"Life is the result of neither design nor chance
but with the dynamic interaction of living substance
with itself."

- Theodosius Dobzhansky (the geneticist)

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A. Introduction to a Theory of Learning

This student feels that it would be a sad mistake to try to propound a theory of continuity in adult learning, i.e., a continuation of the sequential unit system. Of necessity, it would mean someone in some lofty place directing where adult learning should lead. Experience for this student recalls that most adults, especially those in their twenties, do not want to be led or directed in their free time. N. F. Cantor points out that the pupil learns only what he is interested in learning and he learns it in his own way.¹ When adults undertake planned learning they come on to the scene with a much stronger experiential base and greater self confidence. They, in this student's experience, are not about to be led along a continuous path.

That we have inherited in most of our adult education, the weaknesses along with the strengths of the sequential unit system is certainly true! Just the word, "school" or "course" repels many an adult. We inherit the idea of "teacher" and "pupil," of a fifty minute period of time, of a physical stance (if you really want to learn something - sit still and be quiet), and unless we were so fortunate as to experience the best of teaching rather than the discursive, we inherit a set of limited expectations as to how much learning is possible, and in what ways it is gained.

But, we still need a theory of adult learning. At times it may resemble or coincide with child-learning. The student wants to try to draw together several points here.

¹ N. F. Cantor, The Teacher - Learner Process, Dryden Press, New York, 1953, p. 287

1. Jerome S Bruner holds that learning involves three steps: acceptance of new information, manipulating the new knowledge to make it fit new tasks, and evaluation as to how adequate that manipulation was.¹ When Bruner later speaks about intuitive and analytic thinking, he still sees the process in reference to these three steps. Note how acceptance of new information, manipulation of new knowledge, (creating images), and evaluation of new knowledge, (post decision evaluation) are also communication problems.

2. J. R. Kidd - In adult learning, J. R. Kidd follows Bruner's three general learning steps. The problem is, however, that Kidd equates accuisition of knowledge with the establishment of a curriculum. This is, it would seem, a dangerous equation. Kidd's second and third steps are: establishing the teaching-learning transaction and evaluation.² He differs only slightly from Bruner in these.

But there are so many other bits and pieces! Everyone seems to disown the Gestalt theory that there is a unity of the senses, and that senses and muscles must try out and learn patterns of performance.³ Similarly, nearly everyone seems to leave this "unity" concept out of their theory and this student feels that this leaves us with a critical vacuum.

3. Gilson, Maritain, and Adler - There seems to be a certain harmony between some Catholic theorists like Etienne Gilson,

¹Jerome S. Bruner, The Process of Education, Harvard, Cambridge, 1961, Chapter Three

²J. R. Kidd, How Adults Learn, Association Press, New York, 1959, p. 272

³Ibid, 135

and the late Jacques Maritain and so-called "Aristotelians" best represented by Mortimer Adler. The Catholic group holds that knowledge is a value of and in itself (Aquinas, "the truth sets men free") and the Aristotelians affirm that the ultimate ends of education are the same for all men at all times, everywhere; the end of education is overcoming the deficiencies of immaturity.¹ They help us understand more about the philosophy of education than the process of learning, however.

4. Hull, Lindeman, Dewey, and Kilpatrick - There seems to be another group of those who attach great importance to immediate behavior and experience. Clark Hull could hardly distinguish between learning and behavior.² His chief contribution, as we shall see in a later section, is his "drive theory." Eduard Lindeman believed that all adult education groups ultimately become social action groups. (Would that this were so!) John Dewey and William Kilpatrick were fascinated by learning with immediate experience. Perhaps the functionalism of Woodward follows their pattern of learning theory.³

5. Lewin's Field Theory - Then there seems to be another group or locus which attaches a "field theory" of psychology to learning theory. Kurt Lewin saw great significance in changes within the cognitive structure (knowledge), in motivation (learning to like or dislike) and in group belongingness.⁴ (He also tried to

¹ Ibid, p. 140

² Ibid, p. 160

³ Ibid, p. 142

⁴ Ibid, p. 163

fill the gap of the Gestalt idea of control of the body's musculature.) All these changes are to Lewin important when they are considered in life space. This life space is influenced by the physical world, but not identical with it. There is this business of positive and negative valences which people attach to the above changes. To this idea of valence, Lewin added concepts of direction, distance and time, and was able to spatially measure learning, if not completely explain it.

Well and good! But this student is not yet satisfied with the actual learning process - what takes place between awareness and internalization!

6. Gagne's Eight Types of Learning - A very helpful guide to explaining this is Robert Gagne's new book, The Conditions of Learning. He feels that there are eight types of learning, and that when the conditions for learning are arranged properly in relation to these eight types, that real learning can take place.¹

Let us quickly look at the eight types of learning:

1. Signal Learning (S-R). This is a powerful stimulus, such as a sudden noise of a police siren bringing about an almost uncontrolled response.

2. Stimulus-Response (Ss-R) Learning. This is an external signal (S) accompanying a proprioceptive stimulation (s) bringing a precise response (R).

3. Chaining Learning. This is a matter of connecting two previously learned Ss-R's. There must be prior links and these must

¹Robert M. Gagne, The Conditions of Learning, Holt, New York, 1965, p. 26

be fairly contiguous. Some call this "one shot" learning. It occurs on a single occasion. The chain is "suddenly" made of connecting links.

4. Verbal Association. This is a subvariety of chaining. The conditions are that one Ss - R must be established, a response differentiation must previously have taken place, a coding connection must be available and the chains must be reeled off in sequence so that each Ss - R is contiguous in time with the next.

5. Multiple Discriminations. Perhaps the best example of this kind of learning is when a boy or an adult learns all the new car models or a long list of batting averages. The biggest problem here is the interference from other chains. For multiple discriminations to take place, one must learn the individual chains, connecting each distinctive Ss - R, using other Ss - R(s) to help discriminate each S. And, if there is to be any kind of retention, interference must be reduced. We use this method of learning when we join new groups and try to memorize names. As we well know, learning other groups of names interferes with the present job.

6. Concept Learning. This kind of learning depends on the internal neural processes of representation. In man's case, we represent by language. We internalize our environment, manipulate it symbolically and think about it endlessly - almost always using words. The stimulus portion of this more sophisticated chain must have been previously acquired. This is a gradual type of learning. Sometimes an adult by verbal chaining acquires a new concept in a single trial. Usually it takes longer.

7. Principle Learning. This is exemplified by the internalizing

of ideas contained in propositions, e.g., gas expands when heated or $xa + xb = x(a+b)$. Now, you can memorize the verbal chains, but you will not have learned a principle until you use it. In the formal sense, a principle is a chain of two or more concepts. But for principle learning to take place, the concepts that are to be linked must previously have been learned. The subsequent chaining is described as "simple" and as taking place on a single occasion.¹ As to whether principles have to be "discovered" to be learned, or whether they can be "taught," this student can not claim to know.

8. Problem Solving Learning. To combine principles, is to think. (Was it George Bernard Shaw who said that he caught attention because he managed to think once every six weeks or so?) But before one can think, certain conditions must be met. The learner must be able to identify the essential features of the response that he will use for the solution to the problem before he arrives at the solution. The learner must also be able to recall relative principles, and these principles are then combined so that a new principle emerges and is learned. Gagne sees this in a sequence of steps leaving room for flashes of insight.² Professor Howard at Columbia tends to see it more as a process, a flow which cannot be segmented into steps. Gagne says that this type of learning is very resistant to forgetting. Professor Howard says that it is perhaps the easiest to extinguish.³

¹Ibid, p. 52

²Ibid, p. 56

³John A. Howard, Theory of Buyer Behavior, Columbia University Press, Chapter Five, Complex Behavior

Some comments need to be added to these types of learning. It is noted that they fall into a hierarchy, each dependent upon the previous level. For example, how do we explain "unlearning" or forgetting? Gagne feels that with signal learning a fatigue effect takes place so that after so many signals, the stimulus gets "fuzzy." Unlearning of an Ss - R occurs when reinforcement is omitted, e.g., rewards or the satisfaction inherent to the Ss - R.¹ We would like to propose, though Dr. Gagne did not suggest it, that chaining can be unlearned when contiguity is missing.

B. Cultural and Traditional Modes of Learning.

Nearly every adult who has been exposed to a voluntary structured learning program is quite aware of his being guided along with a curriculum and somewhat traditional teaching modes.

Few of us, however, are aware of the much more subtle and powerful ways that we learn through culture.

Let us begin with what is already familiar.

1. Traditional (discursive) Teaching.

It has always seemed logical that the more educated "teach" the less educated. After all, this is the way society maintains itself. There must be a "linkage" of knowledge or civilization would quickly disperse and die.

Much has been done to bring the traditional curriculum with separate texts for teacher and learner into an estimated agreement with the most pressing concerns of adults. Some churches develop their own curriculum which they in turn hand on to their "less learned".²

1. Gagne, Op. Cit., p. 78

2. David J. Emsberger, A Philosophy of Adult Christian Education, Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1959. p.75

The way in which this curriculum is presented varies from church to church. In large part the mode is usually discursive. A teacher either lectures or "leads" a discussion using the printed curriculum as a guide.

A survey by this student of some eighteen churches in New York City showed that nearly all of the planned learning programs for adults used the discursive mode. Essert and Spence have put in many years of toil in the adult education field and are now finalizing their reflections on continuous learning in the educative community.¹ They, too, are supporting this discursive mode which we all learned so well in the sequential unit system in our youth.

In what they call the complementary-functional area of learning (anywhere but in a "school") they rightly point out that there is a carry-over from the sequential unit system. Concrete knowledge is transferred and all the unpleasant memories of "school" are relit.

It seems to this student that Essert and Spence started to look beyond the usual confines of the educative community and stopped short. They hinted at what an anthropologist, Edward T. Hall, has so succinctly summed up in his explanation of how we learn in culture.²

2. Cultural learning. Everyone agrees that we learn a great deal outside of the classroom. It certainly is not planned learning. No one takes a course on how to be a "New Yorker". They

1. Essert & Spence, Continuous Learning Through the Educative Community, Teachers College, New York, 1961, pp.8-11

2. Edward T. Hall, The Silent Language, Doubleday, New York, 1959. pp 85-108

become New Yorkers before they can even read books. When Kluckhohn was speaking of explicit and implicit culture, when Linton spoke of overt and covert culture they were getting at what Dr. Hall spells out in greater detail: we learn by communication in culture.

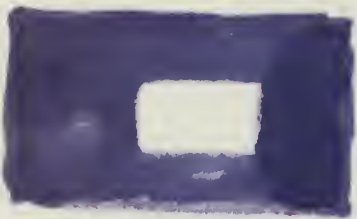
Dr. Hall

points out that there are three major levels of culture: technical, informal and formal. Of these, only the technical is within our conscious awareness.



The technical level of culture involves the most familiar type of learning, that which we have just described with Gagne: verbal representation, multiple discriminations, concept learning principle learning and problem solving. At first glance we might assume (as too many folk assume) that most learning takes place on the technical level, up in the area of conscious thought.

The informal level and the formal level include only "chaining", stimulus response learning and signal learning. But quantitatively that covers an enormous amount of learning! This includes all which we learn by silent "copying", the assimilation of racial and political attitudes, sex mores, patterns of expressing love and displeasure, etc.



Let's take the matter of awareness. Awareness is surely essential to learning. Gagne's thoughts lead to the conclusion that awareness depends solely on the strength of signals and stimuli.

Hall points out most of our awareness (receptivity to messages) is really beneath the level of conscious awareness. This is not in conflict with Gagne. It is simply a deepening of Gagne. Our formal awareness depends partly on the traditions and group mores we have already assimilated. That which does not radically conflict with what we already have does not, apparently, meet much resistance on its way into our formal "awareness". Our informal awareness, still properly thought of as a kind of "out-of-awareness", consists of receptivity toward mannerisms and speech accents, etc. We are not able to discern this type of awareness without aided recall. Technical awareness takes place on the level of consciousness. On this level we can learn and record information at great distances from the source (something which cannot be done with formal and informal awareness where we must be in "cultural contact"). Technically, we can be aware tonight of what happened this morning in Vietnam.

b. Affect. Consider the three levels of feelings or affect. Formal affect is extremely emotion-laden. Symbolically we may say that a tremendous amount of heat is generated as anything "shifts position" on the formal level. Clarence Darrow, the brilliant lawyer, was a great expert of formal culture. He appreciated how explosive formal attitudes can be. We cannot explain the reason for so much emotion - simply note its presence. Informal affect is often associated with anxiety. It lies just below the surface and is not always connected with reality.



Informal affect is given away sometimes by a giggle or bodily gesture which is not exactly appropriate to the conscious mood. And sometimes this affect expresses itself before we, ourselves, are aware of it, e.g. when we feel tears on our cheeks before we were aware of crying, when we smile without being aware of it.

Affect on the technical level is consciously known and consciously suppressed or controlled. We laugh but are under control as we laugh. We may be afraid when the lights go out but we do not show our fear. Professional fighting men are supposed to keep their feelings under control. We say that they are able to "keep cool" when things "get hot".

Attitudes. There is a similar pattern with attitudes. Formal attitudes have a fantastic tenacity. They resemble (but are not) physical instincts. Informal attitudes are more nebulous. They are not as deep-rooted as formal attitudes but they resist reason. Take the business of the man's necktie. What earthly good is served by the necktie? We say that neckties are not required at informal functions. But mark well how many believe that! Before anyone dares to go without a necktie at an informal occasion most men will check to see if the informal attitude is in fact being followed! How do we learn attitudes on the informal level? This student suggest that we chain together contiguous links on the informal level, we imitate models around us without even thinking about it. If we had no models there would be no learning of those particular attitudes. Technical attitudes are the easiest to manipulate. They do not threaten formal or informal attitudes. Learning takes place easily on this level. Seemingly contradictory attitudes can be maintained here, e.g. when some Asian defense experts keep themselves current with the latest space technology

astrologists. (Perhaps this is not any more contradictory than our singing hymns at the battle front.)

Professor Hall, who now heads the Overseas Training Program for the Federal government, suggests that change is continuous on all three levels. He suggests that if we really want to effect a change in cultural attitudes that we had best "first find out what is happening on the informal level and pinpoint which informal adaptations seem to be the most successful in daily operations. Bring these to the level of awareness."¹ We can go back to Gagne here and suggest that a method of bringing informal adaptations to the level of awareness would be through deliberate linking - putting models close enough to the target stimuli so that "pairing" would be speeded up. (We think it interesting that the Learning expert has something to offer to the anthropologist as well as the other way around. And we'd like to think that the theologian has something to say to both of them!)

In this continuing process of cultural change which Hall equates with communication there are, to him, ten primary message systems. These, too, work on all three levels of culture. It is one way of describing a "cultural map".

d. Primary Message Systems. Hall divides these systems into the areas of orientation, core, expression and other (exploitation & interaction). From the individual's and society's point of view these are essential areas for the maintenance of life.

1. Ibid. p. 118

1. Primary Orientation Message Systems.

Where am I and what time is it? This question might be asked by an individual or a group or a whole society. Again, let us look at the three levels in which the questions are raised.

| CULTURE LEVEL | ORIENTATION PRIMARY MESSAGE SYSTEMS | |
|--------------------|--|---|
| | TIME | TERRITORY |
| Technical Level | Here is seen our daily use of time, personal work schedule and rate of performance. Change from a night shift to a day shift might be bothersome but would not necessarily be threatening. | On this level are the conscious boundaries we place on our land, the courses we teach, the distance we let our children travel alone, the size of our parish, the assigned zone of defense in a ball game. |
| Informal Level | Some cycles of interest come upon us without a conscious acceptance. One man starts to fix his garden and others follow along without thinking about frost or if this <u>really</u> is the time for gardening. The hour for "church" is fixed at "eleven" long after the reason is valid. | People of different cultures will stand at varying distances from each other without being conscious of it. Submariners will feel uncomfortable in a large room when they come ashore and not know why. Some women <u>like</u> small kitchens. We have a "feeling" for the space we require even if we can't put that feeling into words to someone else. |
| Formal Level | Consider here the energy required to change the date of Christmas even though December 25 th is but an arbitrary date. Cycles of harvest may be injurious to land but these rotations have been followed for many generations. Why, <u>really</u> , do we applaud after an act and not each scene? Is there a "proper" time to show appreciation? | The very idea of what belongs inside or next to a church may have no rational explanation. It just <u>is</u> that way. Some space is reserved for some things and not for others. Who would ever entertain proper company in a bedroom or garage? Why would it be presumptuous to knock on the <u>front</u> door of an old friend out in the country? Why does "Park Avenue" mean "Park Avenue" when it is no longer Park Avenue? |



ii. Primary Expression Message Systems.

How do I (we) learn, enjoy and defend? How do I (we) express and react to expression? (The reader should not blame all the illustrations on Hall. The outline is Hall's. The suggestions come from the limited experience of the student.)

| CULTURE LEVEL | EXPRESSION PRIMARY MESSAGE SYSTEMS | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|
| | LEARNING | DEFENSE | PLEASURE |
| Technical Level | Here we learn by the sequential unit system of education, "courses", planned training conferences and direct advice. We are aware of some parental influence. | We express conscious defense against harm, death, illness by religion, medicine, police and military activity. | On this level we sing by a written score, play games mostly according to the rules, go to specific sources of entertainment and "know" we're happy. |
| Informal Level | In this area of culture we learn by watching and by listening. We need models to imitate, villains to fear and heroes to worship or emulate. | Here rest many of our attitudes about "fate", "being sick", what is "right" and "wrong" in social ethics, self-protection | We express pleasure in actual play and at times when we are hardly aware of it. How often do we deliberately start to hum or whistle? |
| Formal Level | Family "rearing" is credited with most of our basic attitude toward learning. It must also include all the rewarded and unrewarded experiences of schools, peer groups in childhood and in adolescence. | The very belief systems themselves rest here. How long did it take our Judeo-Christian heritage to form? How quickly does it ever change to the immediate pressures from young clergy? | Our basic concepts of what constitutes fun and humor are in this area. Why is something "funny" in one culture and not in another? Why are bodily pleasures enjoyed by some and abhorred by others? Who would deliberately laugh at an underdog? |



iii. Primary Core Message systems.

The primary ways we interact with respects to those things which are absolutely essential to our existence may be viewed as follows:

CORE
PRIMARY MESSAGE SYSTEMS

| CULTURE LEVEL | SUBSISTENCE | BISEXUALITY | ASSOCIATION |
|-----------------|--|--|---|
| Technical Level | In this area we take for ourselves particular jobs, vocations, and means of support. Women make technical adjustments in their work in the home. | Here we see the public dating, particular dress and clothing styles, which can be changed quickly and easily, such as hemlines, hair-styles, etc. | Civil rights legislation proved how quickly people can change on this level in things like voting, public accomodation and integration of schools. This level is fairly easy. |
| Informal Level | A rather hazy set of norms is at work here, telling us how much maintenance is necessary for us to be "All Right" money-wise, what kind of house, car we should have, etc. | The actual sex habits and expectations of sex experience come through to us on this level. On this level we get norms for our "masculinity" or "femininity" and "fulfillment". | Hall puts caste attitudes on this level rather than the formal level. He thinks they are more pliable than class concepts. All racial and ethnic attitudes belong here. The expectations of friendship, also. |
| Formal Level | The very basic structure of our economic system has its roots in this level, with all that is implied for honesty in banking, fair wages, the idea of competition between firms, the concept of ownership and of legal exchange of property. | Hall feels that the place of men and of women is even more basic than biological sex (informal). Here he means the functional male and female roles, not only in the home but in the literature and in the "lore" of our country over the years. | The basic class structure is, to Hunt, a constant formal structure. The extremes can be shortened he thinks. But the "pecking order" will continue even after political revolutions in communist states. |



iv. Other Primary Message Systems.

The final primary message systems which Hall describes are those of exploitation and interaction. Here he fits in what he could not arbitrarily squeeze into subsistence and learning.

OTHER
PRIMARY MESSAGE SYSTEMS

| CULTURE LEVEL | EXPLOITATION | INTERACTION |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Technical Level | In this area are all the particular forms of industry, types of farming, fishing and human services which can be said to exist on a technical level. That is, we can shift from making ships to making houses, shift from fishing salmon to fishing lobsters. | Language, written or spoken, is what Hall puts on this level of interaction. New words can be introduced with rapidity and ease. New methods of transmitting language are not very threatening <u>consciously</u> to a given culture. |
| Informal Level | The attitude toward actual exploitation of human and material resources is found here. The feelings about conservation or exploitation of forests, copper deposits, labor markets or game reserves. It does not follow that these attitudes are rational or conscious. | Gesture, or what we would call non-verbal communication belongs here. That is not only to include bodily motion but where we place objects in relation to each other, mannerisms that go with communicating, use of silence, etc. |
| Formal Level | Our very concepts of comfort belong here. What we expect we have to claim or try to win from what we find of natural and human resources around us will be more important than particular laws in the final outcome of what gets exploited and what does not. | Hall limits this area to "tone of voice". Surely we must also include our basic norms of who dares to speak to whom, who speaks first when two people meet, whether or not the aged are afforded deference, whether Christians use "Christian" names, whether military men stop saying, "sir" are very deep attitudes and do not bend quickly to change. |



Dr. Hall likes to think in "threes". Not only does he see three levels in every primary message system; but he breaks each secondary message into three parts: the overall structure, the components of the structure, and the message itself.

He breaks each message into three parts: sets (like words), isolates (like sounds) and patterns (like grammar). We are calling these sets, isolates and patterns, "tools of communication."

The reader will note a similarity here between sets and verbal association. There seems to be a similarity between isolates and Ss-R learning. Patterns appear to ^{be} similar to multiple discriminations.

We hold, then, that a useful connection can be made between Gagne's types of learning and Hall's understanding of culture. In a sense each needs the other. Standing alone, Gagne does not account for the quantity of learning that takes place beneath the level of conscious awareness. Standing alone, Hall cannot account for the necessary conditions for learning, prior establishment of more basic kinds of learning, which go into his three levels of culture.

We should like to turn now to still another theorist, John A. Howard. Dr. Howard has taken some sophisticated research from people like Lewin, Hull and Osgood and tried to build a model of human behavior which he can use in the marketing world. This student holds that his behaviorist insights apply with equal effect in the more general area of adult learning. There is some overlap of terms but the basic concepts are quite distinct and blend smoothly with those of Gagne and Hall.

3. A Behaviorist Theory of Learning.

Professor Howard would like to be able to assign an accurate weight to every exogenous variable as well as the dependent variables in the mysterious equation of human behavior. He is not the first to covet such a goal. Nor, does he claim to have gained that ability. He has, however, sorted out and drawn together some extremely useful ideas.

When he segments a market into loyal buyers, undecided buyers, buyers-loyal-to-competitors, disastisfied-tried-once buyers, and never-tried buyers - he is really segmenting an adult population according to their stages of learning.¹ And if his methods of segmentation are both mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive then it can be said that he has captured all stages of adult learning in a given area.

What fascinates this student about Professor Howard's approach is that he is keenly interested in knowing how the reception of information effects behavior. This student shares that interest because of its implications for communication in adult learning.

The stumbling block, of course, in relating projected information to resulting behavior is the way that information is perceived, the state of the alternatives perceived by the learner and the mediation of the stimulus to the response.

Dr. Howard speaks of three kinds of learning: Automatic Response Behavior (ARB), Limited Problem Solving (LPS) and Extended Problem Solving (EPS). He sees these as taking place on different portions of a "learning curve".

1. Howard, Op. Cit. pp 4-4 - 4-9.

i. Arriving at a Basic Equation. If adult learners are at different stages of learning and if more than one kind of learning is going on at one time, it follows that we shall need more than one explanation of that learning.

Howard's first model applies to that type of learning in which the learner is passive. He is not seeking information. Over a period of time information penetrates the awareness of the learner and the learner acts or refuses to act. In this case Howard holds that the following variables apply:

H = the number of previous trials (habit)

M = inner motivation (anxiety and drive)

K = past, rewarded experience, incentive potential

I^a = past, unrewarded (unpleasant) experience

I^n = cost, difficulty in obtaining

Hull found that these variables have the following relationship:

$$\text{Response} = 1.0 \quad H (M+K) - I^a - I^n$$

That is to say, when weights are assigned to these variables and their combined weight totals more than 1.0 a response will occur. When our motivation plus rewarded experience times the number of trials we have had, minus our unpleasant experience and difficulty in obtaining the subject is greater than 1.0 we will move in favor of that incoming information. Obviously H, M and K have to be greater than 0. The formula is the result of controlled studies by Hull and Spence.

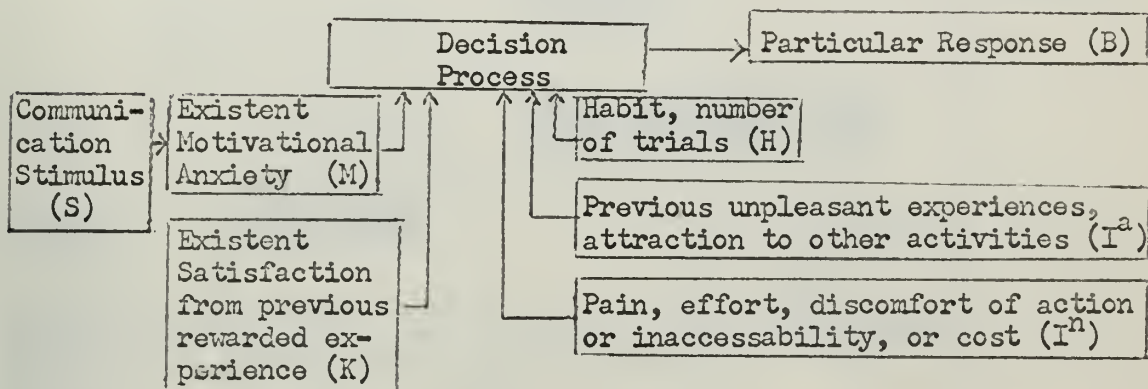
Howard admits that the predictive capacity of this formula remains to be seen.¹ This student is more interested in its use in explaining S-R learning, where S is the actual object or significate.

1. Ibid. p. 2-6.

We already see that Howard must relate incoming knowledge with experience (of the learner) as he seeks to explain the mediation toward a response.

Here is a diagram of Howard's simple model (where the learner is passive, not seeking information)

$$B = H(M+K) - I^a - I^n$$

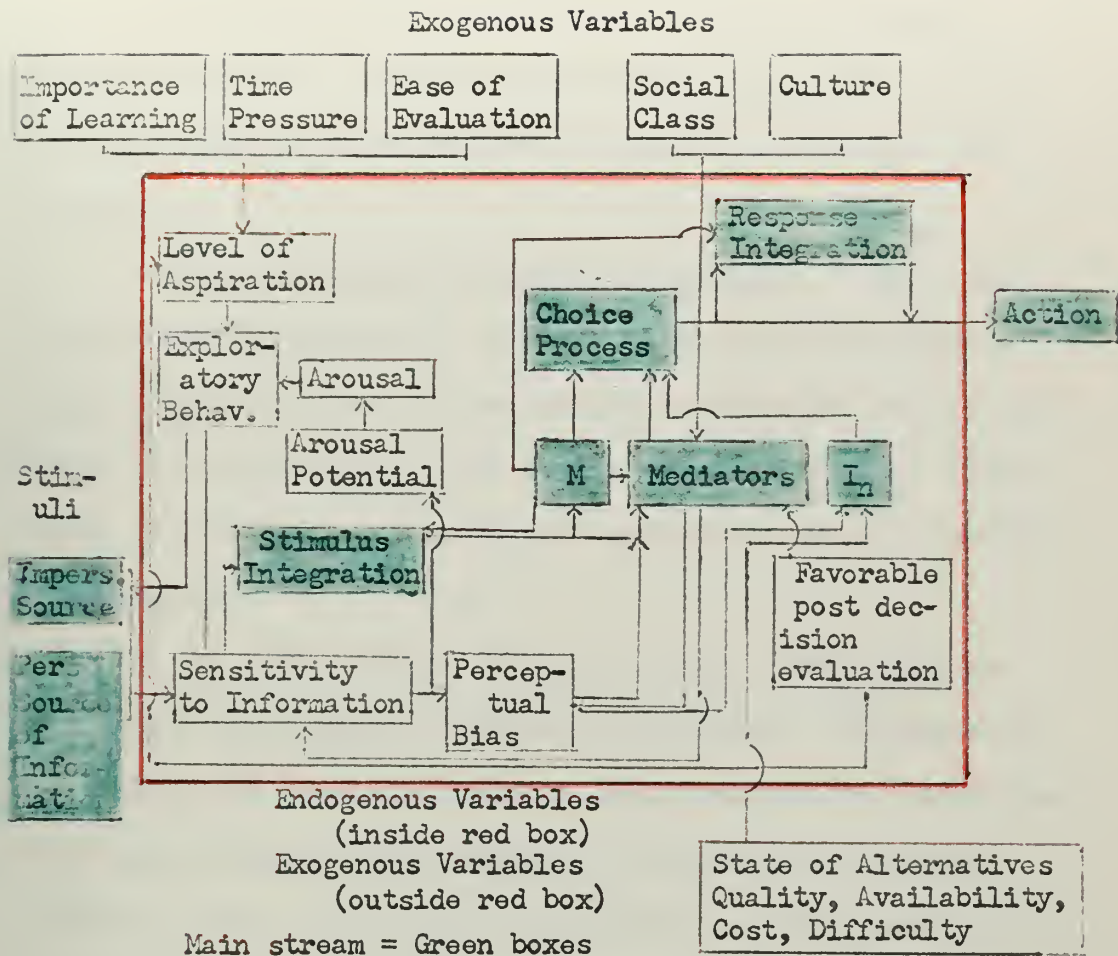


(Note: this is quite similar to Hull's drive theory of learning.)

Now, this formula does not begin to explain how the learner receives stimuli. It does not cover the learner who is actively seeking information or the learner whose level of aspiration is changing. It is a good diagram of S-R learning where S equals the significate.

This student feels that something quite like this formula takes place in the formation of mediators in the representational mediation process ($R_m - S_m$) which we shall soon discuss. Dr. Howard does not agree. Yet some sort of weighted, decision process must take place as we select mediators (images) out of their hierarchy and channel them into the total communication process.

The following chart accounts for the other exogenous and endogenous variables which characterize Howard's view of what takes place between the reception of a stimulus and the final response.



Getting outside information even as far as our perceptual bias involves our sensitivity to information. The particular stimulus integration which is made and its connection with a particular mediator is a key area of concern. We shall have more to say about the feedback inter-relationships of these steps in our next section.

We should note that all of these variables are exerting constant pressure. And as one factor changes we may think of all other factors adjusting as well.

Again, motivation is thought of in this model as a state of anxiety with a directional component. The mediator is that concept or image which the learner has formed previously. Inhibitory factors (I_n) are really a summation of the resistance to learning.

The main thrust of this paper is that learning is really successful, completed communication. Therefore, we must lean more heavily on how outside information is mediated into responses.

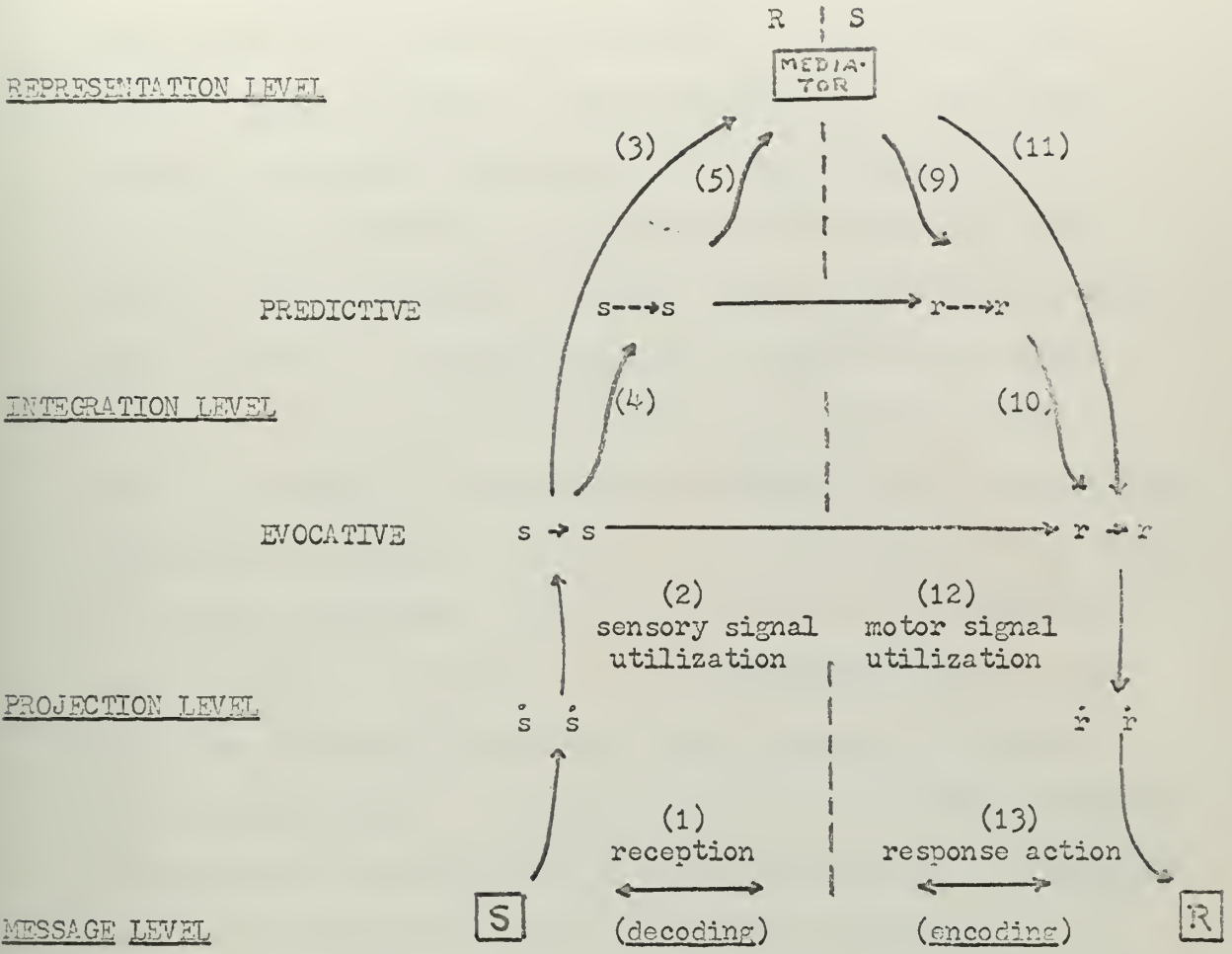
ii. A more complex model of learning. To account for how incoming information is received (differentiating between significates and signs, between single and multiple stimuli) and how it is brought through the cognitive process at the different levels of learning and brought into a final response integration and response.

Dr. Howard speaks of the projection level where the significate can trigger a response automatically. He speaks of the integration level where stimuli and responses are linked over a period of time by their contiguous relationship. Evocative signs help here. And finally, in the only area of learning which is at the completely conscious level, we have the representational level of learning where mediators must be used and where predictive signs are our main communicative tools.

We must note again that more than one kind of learning can be taking place at one time and that different adults may be in a given situation at different stages on the "learning curve", that is they have been exposed to varying quantities of information and are at varying stages of establishing mediators and integrations.

We must also remember from our last diagram that all of this takes place within a cultural "envelope" with exogenous variables pushing in on the learner constantly. But, for the moment, let us look at the possible cognitions in a more complicated explanation of learning.

Here is Prof. Howard's "Sketch of Complex Behavior"



Pathways through this system depend upon the number of stimuli (S), the nature of S (whether a sign or significate (sgnfct)), and the number of R's. Thus you could have eight possible channels of behavior (learning, communication):

1. Single S, (sgnfct), Single R = projection level
2. Single S, (sgnfct), Multiple R, few pairings = 1, 4, 10, 13
many pairings = 1, 2, 12, 13
3. Multiple S, (sgnfct), Single R, few pairings = 1, 4, 10, 13
many pairings = 1, 2, 12, 13
4. Multiple S, (sgnfct), Multiple R few pairings = 1, 4, 10, 13
many pairings = 1, 2, 12, 13
5. Single S, (sign), Single R = 1, 3, M, 11, 13
6. Single S, (sign), Multiple R ⇒ 1, 3, M, 9, 10, 13
7. Multiple S, (sign), Single R ⇐ 1, 4, 5, M, 11, 13
8. Multiple S, (sign), Multiple R = 1, 4, 5, M, 9, 10, 13

It is felt that we must consider the significance of these types of cognitions if we are ever to explain why it is that we cannot communicate meaning automatically. The sensory signals at the lower left corner of Dr. Howard's diagram may be either the significate or signs of some significate. The signals might be constant. Indeed, sensory signals do not change with experience - but their meaning may change for us in time.

On the integration level we say that over a period of time the greater the frequency of one stimulus being made contiguous with another stimulus - the greater the probability of there being a stimulus integration. There does not have to be any rewarding reinforcement on this level. The same principle applies on the response (encoding) side of the diagram. Evocative cues help these integrations. If a boxer "feints" a jab it brings a response integration of the defender into action more quickly. We sometimes say that one boxer will "telegraph" a punch to another.

But still, how do we explain why some stimuli spark off the selection of seemingly unconnected mediators? The biggest portion of this is dealt with in our section on motivation. Briefly, let us point out that there is a probabilistic hierarchy of both the formation of integrations and selection of mediators.

There is a sense in which each mediator can be thought of as $H (M+K) - I^a$. The very formation of an image or attitude implies several forces at work establishing an "entity" which can be stored in the memory.

Let us look briefly at a summary of what we have said thus far.

4. A Synthesis of Hall, Gagne and Howard. Here we are combining concepts about culture, types of learning, behavioral

HOWARD'S LEVELS OF LEARNING

HALL'S LEVELS OF CULTURE

GAGNE'S TYPES OF LEARNING

COMMUNICATIVE TOOLS:

PATTERNS: =

SETS: "

ISOLATES: *

REPRESENTATION LEVEL

Extended Problem Solving

TECHNICAL LEVEL



INTEGRATION LEVEL

Limited Problem Solving

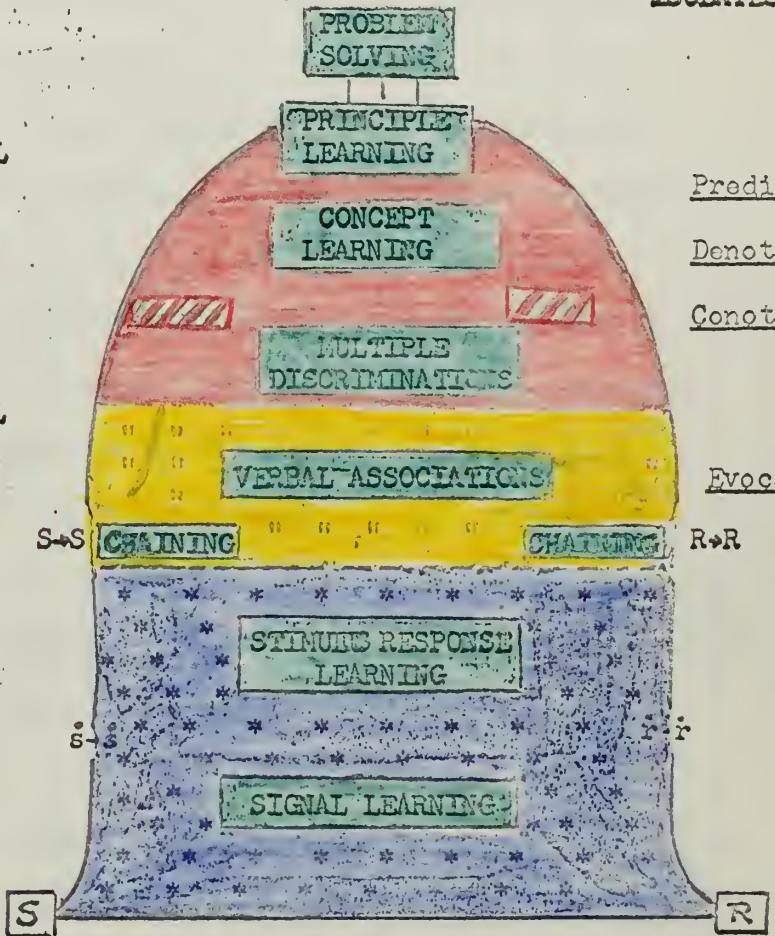
INFORMAL LEVEL



PROJECTION LEVEL

Automatic Response Behavior

FORMAL LEVEL





This does not solve our problem of the mediator.

Hopefully, it does put the whole problem together and illustrate the flux of pressures at work.

5. The Place for Revelation. The reader may well ask, "Where does Revelation come into all of this?" The student feels that there is a definite place for what Sherrill and Bruner have said about "insightful" experience.

This is not to equate Bruner's "leap-frogging" with Divine Revelation. (At the same time one would not want to limit God from "leap-frogging" if that were His will.) This treads close to what Gestalt theorists meant by insight and what Maslow hints at in the basic needs of man. There is by no means a common affirmation of faith. There seems to be more a common anxiety about something which is still unexplained.

Dr. Sherrill pointed out that we learn in a response to a relationship, e.g. a person or a group where the power field of group dynamics influences us and we can also learn from "sudden insight".^{1.}

But where do we place such learning? Does it enter our awareness in the usual channel along with all the other stimuli we receive? Does it crash down through the mediators like a bolt of lightning? Does it flash spontaneously within Gagne's eighth type of learning - problems solving? Does it come to us as a "personal source"? Frankly, this student does not claim to know. Perhaps as John put it, "the Spirit listeth where it will."^{2.}

1. Sherrill, Op. Cit., p. 154, 155

2. John 3:8

5. Dr. Tully's Synthesis of Learning Modes.

There are exciting observations to be made when we apply Dr. Tully's insights to these views of the communication process.¹ With all three modes we may trace how far they reach into the learning models.

a. Expository (Discursive) Mode. With this mode of teaching → learning the ability to "reach into" and effect the many endogenous variables of learning is severely limited. To be sure, we may exert some control over the exogenous variables. We can control the intensity of stimuli (raise our voice), the pressure of time (stop the clock). We can partially control the culture (remove them from it). And we can manipulate the state of alternatives, e.g. quality, availability, cost, etc.

But when it comes to the actual process of learning the "teacher" is really almost helpless in the face of the endogenous variables. The teacher can do nothing about the student's past learning experience or perceptual bias. The teacher can threaten the student and thereby increase his motivational anxiety. But, as all of us know, this is a precarious technique because it may set off the whole "approach-avoidance" reaction and turn off all incoming messages.

b. Discovery (Hypothetical) Mode. In this mode of teaching ↔ learning there is more penetration into the endogenous variables. By planning ahead of time what the student will be exposed to, what experiences he will "discover" or is likely to discover we let him adjust his own sensitivity to information.

1. Mary A. Tully, Roles of the Teacher, Copyright, UTS, not yet published.

His FPDE (Favorable post decision evaluation) may very well raise his level of aspiration. With sensitive reactions to the student the teacher can guide the student away from such inhibitory factors as embarrassment over physical awkwardness, etc.

In terms of learning by the discovery mode there is much more freedom for the student to do his own "linking" of stimuli, "chaining" previously learned Ss-R relationships, making his own multiple associations and even forming principles. Of course, many times the learning situation is structured as a problem-solving challenge. The individual student may or may not travel that whole route himself. He may get there as a member of a group or committee. But consider the difference between these two modes:

c. The Non-discursive Mode. Obviously, the expository mode of teaching & learning must use words for communication. It is rather difficult to speak about non-verbal subjects. The Non-discursive Mode, then, will free the student to deal with all those evocative and connotative symbols from his culture and from his interaction with people closest to him - things which could not be dealt with directly by the expository mode and perhaps only accidentally by the discovery mode.

This mode will take us down into the depths of signal-learning (a level at which neither the expository or discovery mode are relevant). It will be highly charged with motivation.

We are not suggesting that one of the three is the epitome of learning. We are excited, however, about the possibility of the planner of adult learning proposing a blend of all three in his programming and being much more curious about what happens in each mode. This is another way of saying that adult learning as just an extension of the sequential unit system of education just will not do!

CHAPTER III: MOTIVATION IN ADULT LEARNING

"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate." Romans 7:15

- a saint agonizes over cognitive dissonance!

A. Introduction

1. Background of Motivation Research
 - a. Evolutionary Theory
 - b. Functional Theory
 - c. Behavioral Theory
2. Learned Motives
 - a. Ability to Invigorate Other Responses
 - b. Reducibility by Other Responses
 - c. Inhibitory Ability
3. Stimulus Trace
4. Anticipatory Goals
5. Examples of Learned Motives
 - a. Fear
 - b. Anxiety
 - c. Frustration

B. The Anticipation-Invigoration Mechanism

1. The Nonspecification Projection System
2. Some Practical Questions
 - a. Effect of Drive on Stimuli Integrations
 - b. How language effects the choosing of mediators
 - c. Motor Response Integrations as effected by Drive

C. Conflict

1. Approach-Approach
2. Approach-Avoidance

D. Arousal Potential

E. Cognitive Dissonance

CHAPTER III: MOTIVATION IN ADULT LEARNING.

A. Introduction.

Motivation is one of the most important factors in learning. Upon this (if little else) nearly all theorists agree.

Generally, there are two kinds of motivation at work in the human being: (1) Primary, innate or biological, and (2) Secondary, or learned.

Primary motivation is explained by the sensitization- invigoration mechanism. Certain internal conditions are given external stimulation.

Secondary motivation is explained by the anticipation- invigoration system in which symbolization and prior learning have an important part.

1. Background on Motivation Research.

There have been three strands of research in the development of insights about motivation.

a. Evolutionary Theory. With the studies of Darwin and others it was assumed that organisms seemed to learn if drive satisfactions occurred. Motivation was inferred from the survival theory of behavior. Bisexuality was indeed a survival motivation.

b. Functional Theory. Both functional biology and functional psychology have tended to think in terms of equilibrium. Behavior (to them) is in response to disequilibrium. Behavior is the adjustment to imbalance. No behavior is an evidence that motives are satisfied and that all is well.

c. Behavioral Theory. Others saw an intensity dimension to behavior. Reinforcement, the environment and associations with "instincts" seemed to indicate a more manipulatable motivation.

2. Learned Motives. If motives can indeed be learned this has tremendous implications to a planner of learning. But how do we distinguish between "learned" and innate motives?

To qualify as a "learned motive" as against just a 'habit' this drive must:

a. Invigorate other responses. It must be able to activate responses not related to its own satisfaction.

b. Be reducible by new responses. It can be observed being reduced by other new responses.

c. Have inhibitory ability. It can be seen inhibiting other learned responses.

But how do we acquire learned motives? The research suggests that anticipatory goals are set up. An invigorating drive is set up and energized when ever a stimulus trace is received.

3. Stimulus Trace. At the projection level of learning which we described in the last chapter a stimulus is received and transformed into a sensory signal. The sensory correlates in the cortex of the brain are energized by this signal and this signal has a slight hold-over or trace. The persistence of that trace to follow along to some (learned) goal in anticipation of the next stimulus is part of what we call a learned motive.

4. Anticipatory Goals. It can be shown that there is a definable learning curve as certain goals become more and more attractive. Their "K" factor increases. What seemed useless ten years ago may appear very important now. We learned to have this goal. These goals can be generalized. The anticipations formed in one situation can be generalized to other situations.

5. Examples of Learned Motives.

a. Fear. Animal research has shown that fear can

snakes, hot stoves, running in the street, etc. What do we learn? We learn to anticipate penalties.

Clergymen were talking about fear and anticipatory goals for centuries before Freud wrote his collected papers. Fear appeals to "get right with God", escape damnation, not be found a cheap-skate during the every member canvass or guilty of neglecting one's children's religious education are excellent examples of learned motivation.

b. Anxiety. Some theorists feel that anxiety is peculiar to the upper primates. No matter. We know that we experience anxiety and that we can be taught to experience it. If a teacher will work at it she can teach her students to be anxious the moment she walks into the room and she can use this anxiety as a lever to drive them to learn. (Up to a point, that is.)

c. Frustration. Frustration can be a motive if there is a previously aroused drive present along with interference to that drive. If we just had an aroused drive and no interference we would call it 'deprivation'.

B. The Anticipation-Invigoration Mechanism. What we would like to do now is to describe how what we have said so far applies to learning.

The basic principle is that learned motivation can be a direct and energize further learning.

1. The Nonspecific Projection System. Recent research¹ by Elizabeth Duffy points us back to the neurophysiology level to explain these phenomena of energizing and direction giving.

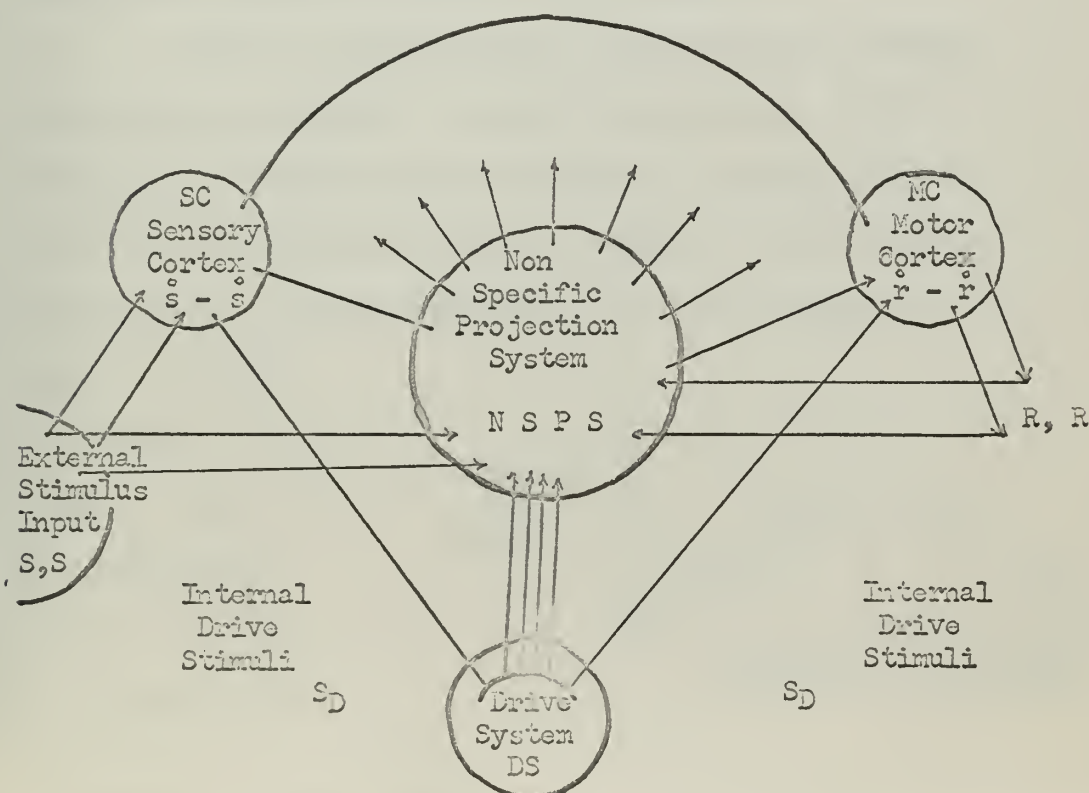
1. Elizabeth Duffy, Activation and Behavior, John R. Wiley, New York, 1962, see Chapters 1 and 4.

The research concludes that as a part of our total nervous system there is a nonspecific projection system (NSPS) which provides a generalized "tuning up" of the cortex of the brain and makes it possible for us to initiate various actions.

As sensory stimuli are received by the learner, these stimuli may take either of two paths to the cortex. They may first be channeled to the appropriate sensory cortical areas (SC) or go directly into the nonspecific projection system (NSPS).

It will be seen that this nonspecific projection system also has a direct influence upon both the sensory cortex (SC) and the motor cortex (MC) and that there is a feedback from the MC to the NSPS. Thus, as we start to climb a set of stairs, for example, we learn as we get up the first stair that we are "on our way". The central factor here is the anticipatory mediation ($r_m - s_m$).

s - r



The direct projection of the SS onto the SC area is believed to stimulate the s - s, the internal impulse derived from SS. In this way SS has a directive effect. This is good to know, naturally, inasmuch as we hope that the information we project will have some directive effect.

Thus far we can see how NSPS has an arousal effect and how the sensory cortical area has a directive effect.

The key point so far is that SC must be "tuned up" in order to receive SS. The greatest chorus in the world may be singing for us but if our SC is not "tuned up" we never 'hear' it.

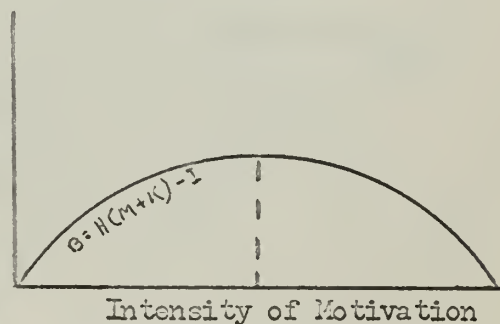
We should glance also at the Drive System. The Drive System mechanism works on the principle of sensitization-invigoration, rather than anticipatory-invigoration. It not only feeds NSPS but has a directive effect on the SC toward some particular alternative related to the drive.

Professor Howard helped us hold our sights within reason about motivation. He pointed out that the effect of motivation on learning is not limitless. Professor Hebb is quoted as establishing a bow-shape function of the effects of varying levels of drive motivation.¹ On the first half of the curve our formula

$$B = H(M+K) - I$$

applies. There is no multiplicative effect of M and H on the second half.

Tendency
to
Respond



1. Howard, Op. Cit., p.6-19

Some Critical Questions. At this point as religious educators or planners of any kind of adult learning let us break into the theory to ask some closely allied questions.

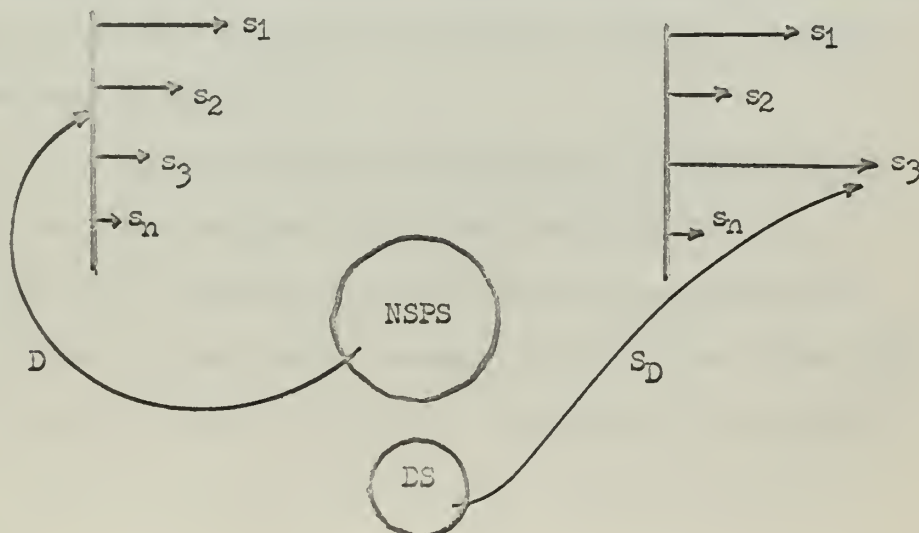
a. How does motivation effect the formation of stimuli integrations? What is the role of motivation in feedback and the selection of particular stimuli integrations? Answers here should help us be much more careful about deliberately increasing motivation.

b. How does language effect the choosing of mediators? When a learner has a "learned mediator" in his warehouse of mediators what effect will there be to increasing motivation?

c. What is the effect of motivation on motor response integrations?

We really should know something in these areas before we go about willy-nilly raising motivation!

To describe the effects of NSPS and DS on stimuli integrations let us use the following diagram with the left-hand hierarchy representing the initial "tune up" and the right-hand the directive effect on probability of SI (stimuli integrations).



Tuning up the NSPS tunes up the sensory cortex area to the optimal level (arrow marked "D") and makes the most probable alternative even more probable. Before the increase of D we see that S_1 was the most probable of the alternatives. We said that what made stimuli integrations more probable was the past frequency of contiguous linking. The DS tends to push this into being.

a. The Effect of Drive on Stimuli Integrations,

our first question, is the direct push on the previously conditioned SI, the one made most probable by frequent linking.

As for the effect of language on the choosing of mediators the data suggests that it will probably only have an effect if the stimuli are ambiguous.

b. Language effects the choosing of mediators

when the level of arousal (NSPS) is increased and when S_D (from past reinforced experience) gives direction. Poets and preachers have sensed this phenomenon for ages. There is such a thing as being too precise with words so that no imagery can flow from the mind of the recipient. So when stimuli are slightly ambiguous an increase in DS will help pull the dominant mediator out ahead in the hierarchy of mediators.

c. Motor response integrations are effected by DS

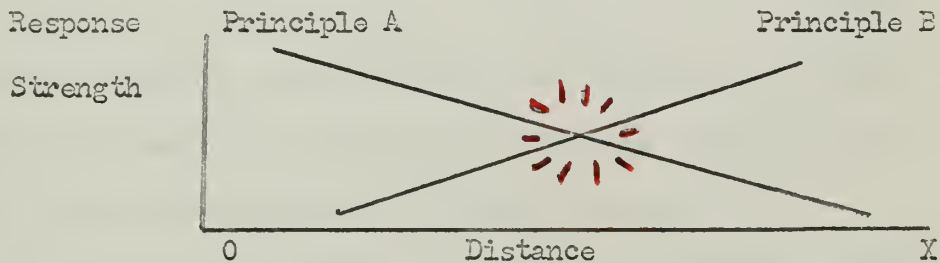
when the drive system happens to be associated with the r_m-s_m . To the extent that a mediator has an evaluative component which is stronger than the denotative component (which better effects SI) response integrations will be helped by associated drive systems. Contextual cues will also effect response integrations via the r_m-s_m route.

3. Conflict.

We mentioned earlier that frustration was one unfortunate type of motivation. It certainly is a commonly known phenomenon. We would do well to consider one kind of frustration - conflict. Here the responses are uncertain. The learner cannot decide between alternatives. This is especially apt to happen when there are new or unfamiliar alternatives, e.g. when parents try to help their children with the "new math".

Basically, conflict is caused by interference of signs or significates. It usually occurs when we are in the information seeking or "exploratory behavior" area.

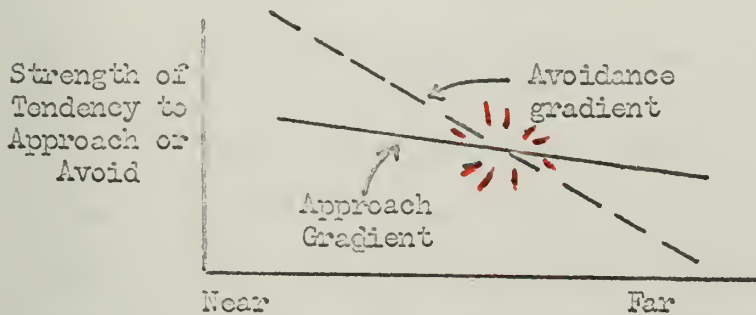
1. Approach-approach Conflict. When the learner approaches a problem of choice which is ambiguous he experiences the greatest conflict when the alternatives seem closest together.



As the learner goes from a neutral ground to an awareness of "Principle A" obviously the attractiveness of "Principle B" decreases. If he moves toward "B" then "A" decreases. This is hardly startling. What we often forget is the 'agony of the center'. This has importance in psychotherapy when a client becomes fixed or arrested. The amount of NSPS which can be generated here is as amazing as it is destructive. A responsible planner of learning ought not let his students remain "hung up" here very long. The motivational "charge" stored up in this kind of conflict resembles what must be behind sudden, compulsive acts.

2. Approach-Avoidance Conflict. In this case the learner is faced with one alternative which has both positive and negative qualities. He is not choosing between two principles. He is deciding whether or not to accept one.

The key insight here is that the avoidance gradient is steeper than the approach gradient. The closer the learner comes to a decision the more he is discouraged. He may vacillitate at the point of intersection. His solution may be not to accept the principle at all.



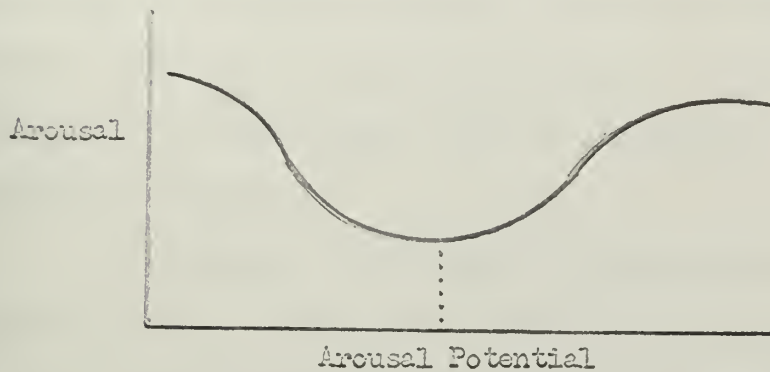
Again, this is not a type of motivation to be willfully induced. The sensitive planner of learning will help the student around this intersection by either rephrasing the situation or by providing another alternative to the learner's awareness.

Increasing motivation in these learning situations tends to increase both the approach and avoidance gradients. Another insight, then, might be that here we would consider reducing the motivation. If we were in the discovery mode of teaching-learning we might suggest more information seeking and relax the time pressure.

D. Arousal Potential.

As we said earlier, the whole learning process is in constant flux. Every student and teacher knows that within this process are periods of boredom and periods of active, exploratory behavior. Somewhere within that flux there is something which arouses us. Arousal potential is the source of that arousal.

No matter what some teachers may think, there is a minimum level of arousal! Presumably below this level there is death. Theorists such as Koch believe that the relationship between arousal and arousal potential is curvilinear.



This is quite deceptive. What we are saying is that as arousal potential increases - for a while, arousal decreases and then increases. What is at work here? One explanation is that given the same state of alternatives arousal (anxiety), in time, decreases. As soon as the possibility of another alternative enters the learner's awareness arousal starts back up. The planner of learning might find occasion to use this in a motivational context by deliberately bringing a group into restricted boredom before an especially important learning experience. It would certainly be one way of reinforcing interest toward the new alternative. However, if the environment were not restricted one might not have any learners around to arouse!

E. Cognitive Dissonance. Closely allied to conflict is another phenomenon which is caused by interference. But this is a post-decision state of anxiety. This has crucial importance in forgetting, in ever deciding to use the same principle again or retaining something which has just been learned.

In a very weak sense all of us are in a continual state of cognitive dissonance. Every time we make any decision there is a trace of disquiet in our cognitive system. Maslow shows us how at any given moment we are only partially satisfied in all our basic needs and that this disquiet is not necessarily conscious. 1. Cognitive dissonance is more pronounced after more important decisions. The motivational effect is directional - toward reducing the dissonance.

In addition to the degree of importance of an act or decision there is another factor which increases cognitive dissonance. The fewer the attractive alternatives, or the fewer the attributes of the alternatives which may be held in common - the greater the dissonance. In other words, if we are making a decision to join the Methodist or the Presbyterian Church and upon investigation we find that there is very little difference between them - after we make our decision (either way)-there will be a high degree of anxiety which will be looking for some form of reduction.

Leon Festinger is far and away the pioneer in our country of the effects of cognitive dissonance. Festinger has been impressed for years now by how much people need social support for their beliefs. 2. Though a particular belief may be voluntarily accepted (internalized) the believer must have social support if he is to keep this belief. What people do when there is no such support is sometimes very hard to understand. We can trace at least five methods of anxiety reduction but the key thing to remember here is the quantity of anxiety which the very act of decision making creates.

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1. A.H. Maslow, Motivation and Personality, Harper, New York, 1954. pp 80-106.
 2. Leon Festinger "When Prophecy Fails" in Maccoby Newcomb & Hartley, Readings in Social Psychology, Holt & Co. New York, 1958. pp 156-158.

Perhaps "life" forces cognitive dissonance. Perhaps it just "has to be this way". Whenever we must make a decision without being able to test it in reality ahead of time more privately than it seems that an extra amount of weight is placed upon the opinion of our group. This is in line with Festinger's views about the constant move toward uniformity.¹ It is not judgemental. Our role as planners of learning should be challenged by the concept, to somehow work for a community which is not so threatening.

For without any adjustment by the group, the individual will seek to reduce cognitive dissonance in one of the following ways:

1. He may change his opinion about what the facts really are. If he has joined the church, and there is no reinforcement or support given him immediately after that decision, he may simply change his beliefs.²

2. He may change his motivational content, his learned motive, his hierarchy of mediators, his view of what is good or bad for him. Of course this same method of dissonance reduction can be channeled in positive directions as well.

3. He may seek more information. Most of the research suggests that someone who is seeking to reduce dissonance will read more, be more attentive to television, ask more personal opinions, etc. Someone who has just bought a new Ford tends to read more literature about the Ford than he did before making the purchase. It is in this area that many today are speaking of "double cost" in communication.

' We don't begin to understand advertising until we see how much is

1. Leon Festinger "Motivations Leading to Social Behavior" in Teevan and Birney, Theories of Motivation in Personality, Van Nostrand, NY, '64 p.160

2. Leon Festinger "Theory of Cognitive Dissonance" in Wilbur Schramm, The Science of Human Communication, Basic Books, New York, 1963. p.23

meant to reinforce after purchases have been made (with the hope, of course, that there will be repeat purchases). Very few of us judge something which we have purchased just on our personal evaluation of it. The wife says, "How do you like my hat?" The new communicant may be saying, "What do all of you think about what I have just done?"

4. He may distort his memory and perception. He may adjust what he remembers about life before the decision and put an extra "filter" in between himself and his present environment.

5. He may change his behavior.

This business of dissonance reduction has so many implications to planned learning for adults that we do well to watch for it. People will adjust by changing their opinions, motivational content, information, memory & perception, and (if all this doesn't work) their behavior.

The positive uses of dissonance reduction are seldom employed with deliberation. Whether one elicits a public confession of faith, a public statement on racial integration, a signature on a petition to negotiate for peace or a march down Fifth Avenue - one is wise to knowingly reinforce the decision in every possible way so that dissonance is finally reduced in a cathartic but wholesome manner.

We have by no means addressed all the problems of motivation in learning. In fact, we shall meet more of the same in our next section on communication.

"The idea is a seed; the method is the earth furnishing the conditions in which it may develop, flourish, and give the best fruit according to its nature. But only what has been sown in the ground will ever grow in it, so nothing will be developed by the experimental method, except the ideas submitted to it. The method itself gives birth to nothing."¹ -

Claude Bernard, One Hundred Years Ago.

A. Introduction

1. Difficulties to be encountered
2. Defining the problem
3. Stating the problem

B. Methodology

1. An initial total survey
 - a. Open-ended questions.
 - b. The proposed questions.
 - c. Introduction for the questions.
 - d. Pretesting both the introduction, and the questions.
 - e. Administration of the survey.
 - f. Analysis of the initial survey.
 - g. Use of the initial data.
2. Determining the planned learning program image in life space.
 - a. Osgood's theory
 - b. A hypothetical case
 - c. Further evaluation

¹Ray Hyman, The Nature of Psychological Inquiry, Prentice-Hall, Englewood, New Jersey, 1964, p. 3

CHAPTER IV. DETERMINING THE IMAGE OF A PLANNED LEARNING PROGRAMA. Introduction.

Bernard's insight that the method itself gives birth to nothing, needs emphasis in our modern worship of computer-programming. Never-the-less, the method may help bring an implanted idea into a greater than expected concept.

As we pointed out in the first portion of this paper, most agencies sponsoring adult learning start out with preconceived ideas of what they think adults want to learn or need to learn. This student searched the literature, the religious education, and adult education doctoral dissertations abstracts since 1929, and found one hundred forty theses written on what adults should learn, but not any on what adults want to learn.

The idea to be elaborated here, and structured by a proposed method is this: it is possible to determine what adults of a particular group would consciously most like to learn. It is possible to determine their image of what they consciously would like to learn now.

1. Difficulties to be encountered. To determine what an adult consciously wants to learn is not the same as finding out what he really wants to learn. Because cognitive dissonance is almost always at work when anyone is asked a question, and because of efforts to please the questioner or a peer group, direct answers must be suspect.

When Professor Hall did his studies with the Navy and was followed by Wittson and Hunt in 1953, they were satisfied with reliability ratings of .58 to .91. They were working on a

psychological analogue to the selection, and rejection of U. S. Navy Personnel.¹

Further experience, (over the last thirteen years) with their findings, has shown that with some modification, their scales produce a reliability of .97.

The point is that even with depth interviews, they couldn't be one hundred per cent positive of their scales before putting them to the test. Similarly, in our case, one must simply propose a method, try in every conceivable way to minimize cognitive dissonance, and then carefully evaluate the results in the world of adults.

2. Defining the Problem. To come up with an exact definition of any problem is deceptively obtuse. What are our prior considerations? We must keep in mind the following points:

- * We are not necessarily interested in perpetuating a perpetuation of the Sequential Unit System of structured education. We want to avoid references to "more school," "courses," or "teachers."
- * People tend to be self-conscious when asked questions by clergymen. We want to present our questions with the feeling that there is not necessarily a religious tone. Nor, is any individual being singled out. We want to generate the feeling that every adult is being asked.
- * In the mere mention of "learning," associations, such as effort for study, time for classes, or money for tuition are often called up. We would like to get by these associations, if possible, to determine what would adults like to learn if all these "ifs" were not present.

¹Arthur J. Bachrach, Experimental Foundations of Clinical Psychology, Basic Books, Inc., New York, 1962, pp. 10-12

* Anonymity is desired at all costs.

3. Stating the question. With these things in mind, our basic question is: "What would adults, beyond the sequential unit system of education in a given group, most like to learn"?

Note: There is no limit to chronological age.

No limit is set on subject, topic, or area of learning.

We want to find out conscious learning interests.

B. Methodology.

Our next step is to suggest a method which will give us the best validity within reasonable limits of money, time, and effort. Depth interviews are ruled out because of expense. Professional polling agencies could be used, if one were willing to spend some \$8,000 per wave of questioning. Sample surveys are felt, in this case, to be too disturbing to the very community with which one would later hope to work.

1. An Initial Total Survey. The planner of adult, learning must decide which, and how large, a group of adults he would like to survey. It is felt that a total survey is the best method, if it incorporates the following:

a. Open-ended questions. It is felt that direct, open-ended questions that were "fanciful" to allay present pressures, straight forward to evoke respect and projecting into the future to better sense presently held conscious thoughts. It is felt that one reversed thought question is an indirect way of checking presently held conscious thoughts.

b. The proposed questions. With all this in

mind, the set of questions for the initial, total survey would be:

1. If you had the chance of taking a pill that would give you knowledge in anything, but you could only take one pill, what would that knowledge pill be?
2. Ten years from now what would you most like to know?
3. The biggest lack of knowledge you now have is....?

c. Introduction for the questions. It is felt that the following introduction should be made in standard (memorized) form, so that whatever evocative stimuli are transmitted will at least be fairly uniform:

"Say, while I think of it, will you help me with something some of us have been trying to do? Over the years, some of us have been asking adults three questions. We keep no record of any person's name. We are just trying to get a general picture. And though your answers are written down so that we won't forget them, your name will not be written down here or anywhere. I would appreciate it if you would help. I know you are busy, but this will take but a moment. The first question is..."

d. Pre-testing both the introduction, and the questions. In this initial or "sighting" round of information-seeking, it is felt that pre-testing is very important. A panel of at least twenty-five adults from different backgrounds is desired. One should try subjectively to get the "feel" of the responses. Should the questioning portion of the interview take place early or late? (At this point, it is proposed to introduce the questions at about the two-thirds point of the interview, giving time for a soothing-over

period after the questions. Our aim is to create as little disturbance throughout the community as possible.

e. Administration of the Survey. After the introduction and questions have been pretested and adjusted in that light, it is proposed that the interviewers contact every adult within the defined group who is beyond the sequential unit system of education.

f. Analysis of the Initial Survey. It is felt that the data obtained from this first round of interviews could legitimately be put to a "hand sort analysis." This means quite simply taking each card upon which one response is given and putting it into a category which "seems appropriate." This student was skeptical of such subjective methods (which were proposed by Dr. Laurence LaShann at Union Theological Seminary). But after trying this method with two small panels, the student found that indeed the cards "seemed to fit" into three general categories. These groupings might be labeled: societal (learning categories which had to do with interpersonal life, e.g., marriage, international peace, race relations, etc.); objective (areas of learning leading to specific skills or understandings, e.g., how to ski, fly a plane, dance, etc.); and personal (such introspective insights as the meaning of life, religious faith, understanding of one's real self, etc.)

g. Use of the Initial Data. Next, what do we do with what we now have? It is suggested that an analysis of the data would give the planner of an adult learning program valid guidelines for beginning a program among those adults. He would

want to promote such a program using the consciously expressed responses of those adults, and reinforce his communications throughout the learning program with frequent references to the wording expressed in the data.

If one feels a bit unsettled about proceeding on such tentative grounds, this is understandable. However, a survey of the literature shows such national adult education leaders as Sheats, Jayne, and Spence, simply saying "Adult educators should help identify unmet needs," and leave it at that!¹

This is not, however, justification for doing nothing more to identify what adults consciously want to learn. Our next obvious step is to begin immediately to try to measure what the adults think about such a program, in which direction, and to what degree ought improvements to be made.

2. Determining the Learning Program Image in Life Space. In our first round of interviews, we by "hand factor analysis" condensed our data to three "appropriate guides." We now want to forget that data temporarily, and pretend that there were no such interviews. We want to start afresh, and see if now that the program is started, there are not more valid variables upon which the program is judged by adults (by both participants, and non-participants, those who are aware of the program, and those who are unaware of it).

Gertrude Schmeidler has stimulated the thinking of many sociologists by what she calls "serial experimentation."²

¹Paul H. Sheats, Clarence D. Jayne, Ralph B. Spence, Adult Education, Dryden Press, New York, 1954, p. 502

²Op. Cit., p. 246

She felt that if we are investigating a precisely defined variable, we should examine a wide range of that variable. And, if we are dealing with a concept, which is not precisely defined, we should test a wide variety of situations to which that concept has been applied. The reader will note that this is in marked contrast to much social research where one concept is tested over and over again within closely controlled, similar conditions to establish reliability. We are, at this point in time, more interested in validity.

3. Determining the Planned Learning Program's Image in Life Space.

Nine years ago, there came out of Illinois a report of a most ambitious attempt to measure semantic meaning in life space. Osgood, Suci, and Tannenbaum had been trying to capture the dimensions of a given word or concept, and measure those dimensions (no matter how involved they might seem to the thoughtful communicator).

a. Osgood's Theory. Charles Osgood had a clear understanding, and a strong opinion of the representational mediation process ($R_m - S_m$). He felt that Hovland's earlier studies did not hold up to real life because mere word association was not enough. Semantic measurement by itself is inadequate because different people attach different meanings to words with different weights of meanings. S-R or Ss-R learning is not sufficient explanation for dimensionality in semantic space. We must include a relationship between mediation, and semantic space location.

Mark well here how other theorists have gone astray

at just this point, e.g., those who are on the current attempt to find "content measurement" of given communications. It is an attempt really to go back to Hovland's work on the S-R level.

Meaning (to Osgood) in psychological terms is:

"Those cognitive states of human language uses which are necessary antecedent conditions for selective encoding of lexical signs in messages." (The word 'sign' here is equated with 'sign' in the representational mediation process).¹ He goes beyond linguistic meaning, the attempt to universalize morphemes and phonemes. He separates signs from significates (the actual objects) and aims for a centroid-factorization which we will try to elaborate in a hypothetical case.

In the semantic-differential method, we first go after as many word associations as we can get, then establish word-opposites, then try to measure where between those opposites a person will rate a particular word.

Osgood and those working with him found that a large portion of meaning of words can be accounted for in one dimension: the evaluative dimension. This included such word opposites as good-bad, beautiful-ugly, kind-cruel, etc. They found that most of the remaining meaning could be carried on two other major dimensions: strong-weak, and active-passive.²

b. A Hypothetical Case. To elaborate this in our hypothetical case, then, we would first ask participants in

¹Charles E. Osgood, George J. Suci, Percy Tannenbaum, The Measurement of Meaning, University of Illinois, Press, 1957, p. 318

²W. F. Hill, Op. Cit., p. 190

our newly formed adult learning program to list as many adjectives as they could, describing the program. Our next step would, by the same method, be to ask for antonyms to those words. With these lists of words and word-opposites, we would form what is called a "Kelly grid" which we would then take to a panel of some fifty participants. We would ask them if any of these words describes the program, and if so, to check what other word comes close to describing what that one word describes. In other words, if you think "friendly" describes the program check other words which make you think of that quality, e.g., "warm," "happy," "cool," etc. Low frequency relationships can be omitted. Where high frequency relationships appear on the final matrix, one or two adjectives can be used to take the place of all the adjectives in that grouping. By factor analysis, the total list of adjectives will be refined to yield a lexicon of much fewer and more precise elements for describing the new program.

We do not want to limit our data to that coming from just the participants. We want to know also what the people think, who have heard our communications, but not participated, or who have heard our communications, participated, and then dropped out.

We want to delineate three time periods: (I) when most adults are learning about the program, but have not yet tried it, (II) when the program is in full swing, and everyone has had a chance to sample it at least once, and (III) after a still longer period when everyone will have had ample opportunity to hear about the program, whether or not they ever participated.

We also want to get quantitative answers to the

following three questions:

1. The learner is likely to attribute certain qualities to the program before even trying it. To what extent do these attributed qualities help to predict whether or not he will try the program?

2. Once the learner has tried the program he is likely to attribute certain qualities to it. To what extent do these attributed qualities predict the fact that he tried it?

3. To what extent can these attributed qualities help to predict whether he will continue in the planned learning program?

Surely, the reader will appreciate how answers to these questions are much more valuable than simple word associations. If we can get quantitative answers to these three questions we are a lot further along in understanding the meaning of our program to our adults, as it has been formed by their representational mediation processes!

To answer the first question, we hope to use the correlation between qualities attributed to a not-yet-tried program by the learner, and his subsequent trials of the program. Therefore, at the end of the first period, each panel member will be asked to rate the qualities of the not-yet-tried program on seven point scales, and at the end of the subsequent periods, he will be asked whether he actually tried it or not. Then for each learner, one tally will be entered in on the cells of the following tables:

Degree to which the learner attributed the quality to the not-yet-tried program (step I)

Quality 0

Has the learner tried the program
after attributing the qualities to it?

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| YES | | | | | | | |
| NO | | | | | | | |

This table permits the computation of the point biserial coefficient of correlation, which will provide an answer to our first question, namely the extent to which trying the program is correlated with the fact that the learner attributed this quality to the program before trying it. (How important was the "friendly" quality in trying the program?) To answer the second question the following table will be considered:

Quality 0

Has the learner tried the program
before? (step I or III?)

Degree to which the learner
Attributes the quality to the
either tried or not-tried
program (step III)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| YES | | | | | | | |
| NO | | | | | | | |

The correlation coefficient computed from this table will provide a quantitative answer to the question: to what extent does the quality attributed to the program depend on the fact that the learner has already tried the program? In other words, did the learner "learn" the meaning from participation in the program or did he bring his meaning to the program?

As with the first question there will be as many tables and correlations as there are qualities under consideration. Finally, to answer the third question, the following table will be used:

Quality 0

Has the learner repeated or
stayed with our program?

Degree to which the learner
attributed the quality to
the tried-at-least-once
program (step II)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| YES | | | | | | | |
| NO | | | | | | | |

Here we hope to learn what qualities are essential for sustained participation in our program.

The information will be synthesized as follows. (As the reader may have noted, the basic features of this method end up with a relatively large number of tables for each of the three questions mentioned earlier. If 10 potential qualities (semantic scales of the new program) are considered for each of the three questions there will be 10 tables and 10 coefficients of correlation as answers.) In order to give a briefer answer to each of the three questions the following treatment will be used:

1. Factor analysis of the raw data, in order to reduce the 10 elementary qualities (scales) into a smaller number of qualitative factors.

Discriminant analysis of the factor scores, in order to show the comparative importance of the different qualitative factors.

This treatment will end up with the following table:

| | Questions | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----|-----|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) |
| Qualitative factor I | a | c | b |
| Qualitative factor II | | | |
| Qualitative factor III | | | |

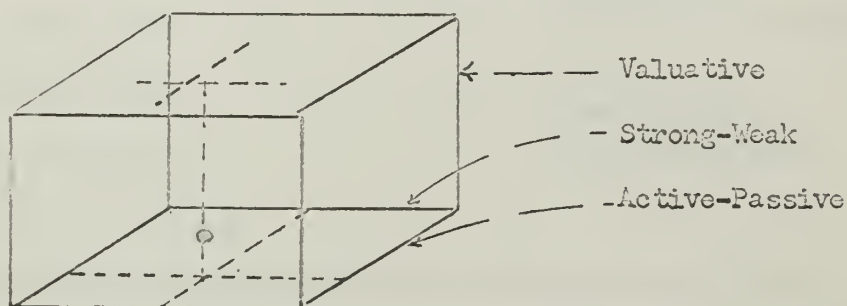
a. For example, the upper left cell of this table would show a coefficient which, compared with the other coefficients of the column, would tell us to what extent it is important for the learner to attribute the qualitative factor I to our new program in order for him to try the program (question 1).

b. The upper right cell of this table will show a coefficient which will tell us the extent to which it is important for the learner to attribute the qualitative factor I to the new program after he has tried it, in order for him to continue in our program (question 3).

c. The upper center cell will tell us the extent to which qualitative factor I is a result of the fact that learner has tried our program^{1.}
(question 2).

The reader will note at this point that we now have an accurate measurement for the communicated, actual and ideal images of this given program for this group of adults at this time and place. It would seem that this information would have some predictive value for future programs as well.

Configuration of our program (3 factors)



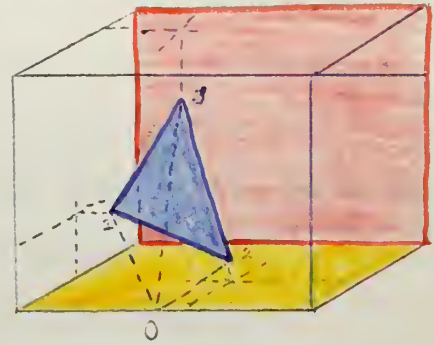
As for the time being we also have the data to locate the position of our planned learning in "life space". We can also locate the ideal image of these adults along with the images of our competitors.

C. Further Evaluation.

Our evaluations ought not to end here. There is still much to be done in the way of subjective "blending" of expressed goals of the learner and our goals as learning planners. It is quite legitimate for us to evaluate our program as "participant observers"^{2.}
We are, after all, trained to bring some insights not yet shared by others.

1. J.A. Howard, Op. Cit., Technical Appendix, p.22

2. Pauline V. Young, Scientific Social Surveys and Research, Prentice Hall, New York, 1949. p.203.

Diagram

Looking at
our position in "life
space" as well as our
relationship to the
ideal and to our
competitors, the final
decisions as to how we

build future programs,
utilize leadership, funds
and facilities along with
the work schedules of our
adults is still a somewhat
subjective group of decisions.

Competing
program - 1
Our
program - 2
Ideal
program - 3
Arbitrary
point of
Measure-
ment - 0

$0 \leftrightarrow 2$ = our factored position
 $0 \leftrightarrow 3$ = factored ideal position
 $2 \leftrightarrow 3$ = distance and
direction for improvement
 $2 \leftrightarrow 1$ = distance and
direction from
competing program

Kenneth Boulding has pointed out that there are at least
ten kinds of images which exist concurrently and within which any
given activity must be viewed.
1.

We have our spatial image which clues us in to our location
in the space around us. We have a temporal image, our own calendar.
We adopt a personal image wherein we see ourselves in the midst
of other people and groups. Everyone has some sort of value image
for scaling parts of the total image. We have an emotional image
by which the other parts of the image are given feeling or affect.
We have a relational image which clues us in on regulations, mores, etc.
There is a psychological image that divides the total image into
conscious, unconscious and subconscious areas. We have an image
of certainty. There is an image of what is or what is not reality.
And there is what the British might call a "privacy" image.

It is felt that the objective data should be interpreted with these images in mind on a continuing basis. Part of this may be guessed at intuitively for purposes of starting programs. The largest part of our effort should be in finding quantitative measurement of the group's image of our planned learning experience. But surely there is also room for subjective evaluations from a slightly transcendent level (but still as "participant observer").

Herbert Hyman has found in observing such programs that often very valuable concepts for future action emerge from unanticipated consequences of a current program.¹ These range from such things as unknown skills and use of leisure time to new alienation from certain political groups and future friendship choices. We would be wise to observe our program carefully for such consequences.

1. Herbert H. Hyman, Charles R. Wright, and Terence K. Hopkins, Applications of Methods of Evaluation, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1962. p.18

"Our aim is to develop an awareness about print, and newer technologies of communication, so that we can orchestrate them, minimize their mutual frustrations, and clashes, and get the best out of each in the educational process. The present conflict leads to elimination of the motive to learn, and to diminution of interest in all previous achievement; it leads to loss of the sense of relevance. Without an understanding of media grammars, we cannot hope to achieve a contemporary awareness of the world in which we live."¹

A. The Source of Communication

1. Identifying the Source

- a. unknown source - plain message
- b. known source - unwanted message
- c. right source - wrong self-image
- d. correct image - incorrect source
- e. conclusions about source problems

2. Technical Examination of the Source

- a. communicative characteristics of the source.
 - i. power
 - ii. attractiveness
 - iii. credibility
- b. source characteristics in operation.
 - i. compliance
 - ii. identification
 - iii. internalization
- c. synthesis.
 - i. receiving
 - ii. yielding
 - iii. retention
- d. resulting effects of source characteristics.

¹Marshall McLeehan in Explorations in Communication, 1960

B. The Channel of Communication

1. General comments.
2. Technical examination of the channel.

C. The Message

1. General comments
 - a. Symbolization
 - b. The perceived instrumentality
2. Technical examination of the message.
 - a. Graphic layout
 - i. size
 - ii. contrast
 - iii. position
 - iv. illustrations
 - v. color
 - vi. print
 - vii. readable/interest
 - b. Content
 - i. fear-arousing appeals
 - ii. conclusion drawing
 - iii. problem or solution
 - iv. one or two-sided communications
 - v. goal
 - vi. style
 - c. Context
 - i. Hendrik Kraemer
 - ii. Paul Tillich
 - iii. A proposed context

D. The Receiver

1. Specific personality Variables .
 - a. Intelligence
 - b. Anxiety
 - c. Self-esteem
2. Situation of the Receiver.
3. How the Source appears to the Receiver .
4. How the Channel appears to the Receiver.
5. The Receiver's Time Schedule.

Let us turn to a more detailed examination of the communication process. The standard outline used by theorists today (introduced originally by Harold Lasswell at Yale) is: WHO says WHAT to WHOM, HOW with WHAT EFFECT? More explicitly:

Who is the source of communication.

What is the message, itself.

Whom is the receiver.

How is the channel.

What effect is the measured perception and retention of the message.

As Carl Hovland pointed out, communication as an art has had a long history, but as a science it has had a very short history.¹ Hovland, just thirteen years ago, called for a more comprehensive theoretical structure and systematic experimental proof of such hypotheses.² We shall try now to spell out some of the hypotheses that emanate from Lasswell's basic outline and, where possible, show how some of these have proven usefulness to planned adult learning.

A. The Source of Communication.

1. Identifying the source. An amazing confusion in adult life centers about the source of communication. The source is sometimes hard to locate.

a. Unknown source - plain message. Anyone who has worked in Christian education programs with adults has often bumped into statements of policy such as, "This is the way we do things

¹"Social Communication" in Berelson and Janowitz, Public Opinion and Communication, The Free Press, Glencoe, Illinois, 1953, p. 181

²Ibid, p. 187

nerd." Or, "Doctor Smith feels we should study Luke," or, "the Methodists tell their adults not to bother with dramatics." That no official body has ever established an adult class policy in that church, that Dr. Smith could care less if they study Luke or Philemon, that the Methodists do use dramatics - all this - has no effect upon the continuing communication. The message is plain. The source is unknown.

We do not suggest that time be wasted in tracking down the source of each spurious communication. It would be far more helpful to consider the great number of sources which produce messages in any institution. The pastor, the official board, the director of religious education, and perhaps the church secretary may deliberately originate a few communications. But each of their families, each adult participant (and their wives and children) and each adult who has been exposed to communication about adult programs but has not seen fit to participate have plenty more to say about the programs. The outsider who has never even been exposed to the programs, or their promotion, will still, when asked, often have an opinion about them.

b. Known source - unwanted message. Similarly, adults are frequently surprised to be identified as part of the source of communications they would never willingly espouse. Many churchmen understandably rebel at being grouped with the "death of God" school when all they are suggesting is a new form of witnessing to the living God. Many students who followed Mario Savio in the Free Speech Movement at Berkeley did not understand why the rest of the country classed them with the "filthy speech movement" of Art Goldberg

the self-described "Maoist."¹

d. Right source - wrong self image. Some churches and, those responsible for their adult programs, have never really come to terms with who they are and what they are to their neighbors (or to God). They have not yet, as Hendrik Kraemer suggested, begun to understand their own identity as source of communications.²

Without empirical evidence, some leaders assume that their image to the public is: "closed doors"; "a bastion of alien culture"; "relentless sects"; "big downtown churches"; "conservative religion"; "useful institution"; "divided and innocuous body."³

Mere intuition is not enough to be sure of one's image. There may, in fact, be no currently held image. Some of us, as Kraemer also suggests, do not even bother to ask, "Does anyone bother to listen to me when I speak? If not - why not?"⁴

d. Correct image - incorrect source. Perhaps the most vexing of all communications dilemmas is to recognize the success of other sources in projecting the image we had hoped to project. To know by intuition and empirical evidence that the local tavern evokes warmer feelings of fellowship than does our men's club or that the P.T.A. has a stronger impact on housing segregation than does our

¹Lipset and Wolin, The Berkeley Student Revolt, Doubleday, Garden City, 1965, p. 340, 344

²Hendrik Kraemer, "The Problem of Communication" Union Seminary Quarterly Review, May, 1956, p. 22

³George W. Webber, The Congregation in Mission, Abingdon Press, New York, 1960, p. 30

⁴Hendrik Kraemer, The Communication of the Christian Faith, Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1956, p. 10



social education and action committee is enough to make any of us covet our neighbor's image.

e. Conclusions about source problems. We are not at this point suggesting that we manipulate our source-image to be more popular. What we have thus far suggested is that we:

1. Understand our own identity.
2. Check our projected image empirically.
3. Check on who else shares our desired image.
4. Check to see if the source of agency related communication regarding our activities is known or unknown, desired or undesirable.

Introspection by itself is not enough. It must be purposeful introspection.

2. Technical examination of the source. Let us now look at the source more closely. We shall try to relate the characteristics of the source to their processes of influence and the type of psycho-social behavior which these usually cause. These characteristics usually co-occur, and we thus find ourselves dealing with a combination of factors or a pattern rather than an isolate, or a continuum.

a. Communicative characteristics of the source. We note that the source can be credited with three communicative characteristics: Power, Attractiveness, and Credibility.

1. Power - The power of the source is related to the actual or potential control over specific rewards and punishments on the part of the source in a given social structure.

2. Attractiveness - Attractiveness in a given

social structure. The attractiveness of the source has more to do with the basic likability of the source to the learner.

3. Credibility - Credibility has received much attention as the "trust" or "believability" aspect of the source.

b. Source characteristics in operation. More important, however, is the specific psychological process which each characteristic seems to elicit. Indeed these characteristics really only become usable as we study how they operate.

1. Compliance - The power of our source effects compliance. The learner may or may not be interested in the content of the message. If he sees power as the main characteristic of the source, he will try to gain approval or avoid disapproval by some form of ingratiation.

2. Identification - If attractiveness is perceived in connection with the source, then the learner tends to identify in a role-relationship with the source.¹ This means that the learner will set up a relationship with the source which risks his own ego. He casts his lot with the source.

3. Internalization - Credibility has more to do with internalization. If the learner has a basic trust in the source, his value system tends to be congruent with the source, and he intends to internalize rationally or emotionally toward what is basically problem solving behavior. The source, in other words, becomes a deeply valued tool toward building a solution to a problem. He decides to use the source.

¹J. Howard, A Theory of Buyer Behavior, Columbia University, 1966, p. 820

3. Synthesis. If we were to outline these relationships, we might suggest the following:

| Communicative Characteristics Of The Source | Influence Process | Type Of Psycho-Social Game |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Power | Compliance | Ingratiation |
| Attractiveness | Identification | Ego Defense |
| Credibility | Internalization | Problem Solving |

Empirical data has been collected to give us helpful guidelines in the use of the above outline. It will be noted that power and attractiveness of the source may be quickly perceived, e.g. in the personality of a strong and handsome teacher. But these attributes vanish when the teacher leaves. Learning that has been influenced by source credibility and the internalization of the source tends to be much more durable.

Let us suppose that we wish to structure a learning situation in an old area of interest. The field has been "plowed many times," but we hope to bring adults through the field again. Power and Attractiveness will have a much more useful emphasis because we would here be working with previously established "sets" that would be stimulated by our communication source. In an old, or more familiar learning situation, the adult is faced with choosing from within known alternatives. The power and/or attractiveness of our communication is much more important here.

In a new learning situation, the adult is almost forced to a problem solving process because there are no previously learned

evoked sets. Credibility of the source should be emphasized when we structure new situations.¹

d. Resulting effect of source characteristics. But let us go on to observe how these characteristics effect reception, yielding, and retention.

The power of the source directly effects reception or awareness. It directly effects yielding. However, the power of the source can be too strong and set up an "attention vs. vigilance" conflict which impedes learning. Theorists such as Hovland, Janis, and Kelly have found that there is a curvilinear relationship between enough power to keep attention and so much power as to evoke defensive vigilance. If the power is too strong, the source may never be received (heard or seen).²

Attractiveness directly effects receiving and yielding. The more likeable the source, the more the learner is apt to receive and yield to the message. Strong S-R relationships are apt to be established. We have known for centuries that "honey attracts more effectively than vinegar," but it is strange how clergy and adult educators ignore this!

Communications theorists find little or no evidence for power and attractiveness effecting retention. However, credibility does effect retention. And if we look more closely at credibility,

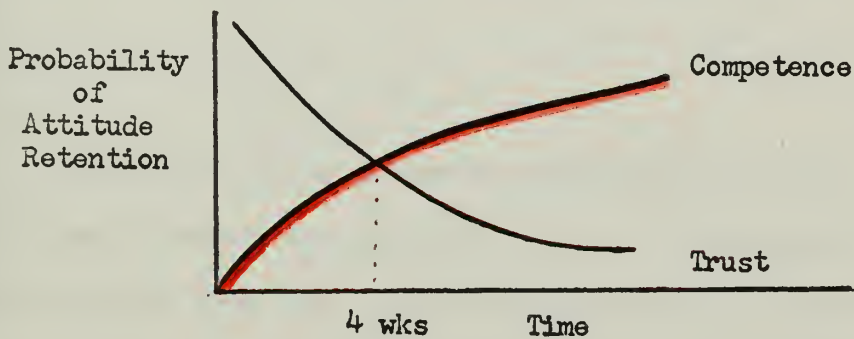
¹Ibid, pp. 8-24

²(The most obvious example of this is seen in the studies of communication in oral hygiene where excessively threatening messages about tooth decay, rotting gums, etc., were never even "heard." See Carl I. Hovland, Communication and Persuasion, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1953, pp. 23-52

we note that it has two components: trust and competence. We have a basic trust in the source and/or we may believe in the competence of the source in this particular area of learning.

We now come to what is called the "sleeper effect."

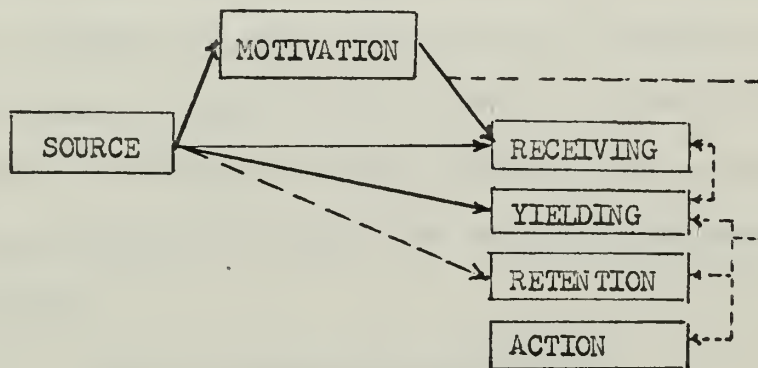
Hitler understood this effect decades ago. The trust component of source credibility has a rather short life. Thereafter the proven competence of the source is seen to be much more important. Hovland, Weiss, and others determined that after about four weeks there was little difference in attitude retention between a high and a low credibility source. What counted increasingly was competence. This has frightening possibilities for the propagandist. It should also wake the churchmen to the awareness that if he wants to establish enduring attitudes, he had best not linger in his holding up his Bible and saying, "This is my authority." He already has less than four weeks to prove competence for enduring retention! ¹.



1. Ibid, p.66

Bauer and Hilibrand have found in several of their studies that it is often better to introduce a message as coming from a neutral source. And as we shall see in the next section, Herr Goebbels' used just that technique to influence axis and allied adult learning with his propoganda efforts. Attitude retention may often be more enduring if the source is perceived as being neutral.

Before going further, let us diagram what we have thus far said about the effect of the source upon receiving, yielding, and retention.



The solid arrows represent strong direct effect. The dotted lines represent the secondary effect of the interplay of the result-components upon each other once the process is energized. In other words, the receiving result does effect the yielding result because of previously learned "sets" and vice versa. Actually, the source also has a direct effect upon the inner motivation within the learner (once the source is perceived) and this energized motivation will often have a directional component that may effect all of the result-components.

B. The Channel of Communication.

1. General Comments. There is a lot of "hot" feeling amongst religious leaders about using mass media for religious communication. Actually, of all mass media (newspapers, radio, TV) less than three per cent of their space is devoted to anything remotely religious.¹ Some religious leaders are uncomfortable about using any mass media. Some see no problem at all.

Actually, in these pages, we are not thinking about communicating "religion" as such. We are trying to address the communication process in planned adult learning. It would be good to first consider the variety of channels that is laid before us. To codify these channels is not easy. We can start with verbal and non-verbal channels.

a. Verbal channels of communication:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Human speech | Dramatic plays |
| Prayer telephone | Radio |
| Personal letters | Books |
| Rumor systems | Periodicals |
| | Printed signs |

b. Non-Verbal channels of communication:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Photographs | Symbolization of |
| Paintings | science |
| Drawings | Formulae, etc. |
| Silent movies | Human gesture |
| Non-verbal music | Body motion |
| Displays of material | Posture |
| things | Tone of voice |
| Design mathematics | Dance |
| Personal dress | Use of time |
| Habits | |

¹Roland E. Wolseley, Report from the Federal Communications Commission

c. Combined verbal and non-verbal channels of communication:

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| Schools | Television |
| Churches | Sound movies |
| Businesses | Athletics |
| War | Delinquency |

Some theorists codify by personal and impersonal categories. But again there are channels of communication which defy such tight "boxes." Is a church or a business "personal" or "impersonal"? Well, it depends. Is a particular piece of correspondence "personal" or "impersonal"? Again, it depends.

What is more important to us here is to note what practical implications there are for the different media. Take the difference between printed and electronic media.¹

| <u>Printed Media</u> | <u>Electronic Media</u> |
|--|---|
| 1. Requires the ability to read | 1. No special training required |
| 2. Usually experienced individually | 2. Usually experienced in company |
| 3. Taken in small doses | 3. Taken in large doses |
| 4. Relatively slow diffusion | 4. Very rapid diffusion |
| 5. Can be re-read and checked | 5. Generally not re-observable |
| 6. Relatively inexpensive to produce, but costly to the receiver | 6. Very expensive to produce, but relatively cheap for the receiver |
| 7. Created for minorities of varying size. | 7. Created for majorities. |

Again, it is hard to build "water tight" comparisons. Public prayer (non-electronic) can be said to be geared for mass participation. And the electronic prayer telephone is designed for individual use. The point here is not to get lost in minutia, but to recognize the varieties of channels and the varieties of

¹Gilbert Seldes, "Communications Revolution" in Explorations in Communication, Beacon Press, Boston, 1960, p. 196

implications.¹

We must even risk appearing mundane, and suggest that we as communicators fail to note:

How many and who read old English script in church advertisements?

Who is able to read billboards next to highways? Who travels by car?

Who is able to see our church's billboard? Who is on foot?

What does the church building itself communicate? Who ever actually sees the church interior?

Obviously, channels have different capacities. Radio has no visual stimuli. Most people can read five times faster than they can listen. Print is therefore more efficient in transmitting many words in a short time. It is possible to communicate to illiterate people by radio and television, (though not by any manner automatic), and impossible by print. Yet, who from the church ever stops to question the capacity of communication channels? What effort is made to see which groups are excluded by our choice of media?

Paul Lazarsfeld holds that when we speak of personal channels of communication, we must also speak of "detours of influence." He feels that information from public leaders and the mass media is detoured through "opinion leaders" to other people.²

¹James E. Sellers in his The Outsider and the Word of God, p. 182, points out for example, that the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church is known to have drawn over 800 calls per hour with its individualistic, electronic channel - the prayer phone.

²Malcolm Boyd, Crisis in Communication, p. 27

He also holds that people who listen to "opinion leaders" are more likely to seek information in other channels, e.g., reading serious news. His data suggests that we develop habits around communication channels. Women, who listen to the radio during the day, are more likely to listen to the radio at night. People who "read the book" are more apt "to go see the movie." People who listen to serious news, are more apt to read about serious news.¹

Yet, many of us in the religious educational field tend to think of channels of communication as if they were sterile of implications or habit patterns. We can prattle off the variety of channels we use, e.g., movies, film strips, flannel boards and the plethora of audio-visual aids (about which there is always so much talk, and so little action). We are conscious of our newsletters and correspondence, our Sunday bulletins, and our telephone conversations, but we pause not to reflect on their implications.²

Finally, for those who worry about the ethics of using some channels as against others, John Bachman sums it up, "The media are seen to be neither magically beneficial, nor inevitably degrading; they are part of an imperfect world, subject to perversion, but also subject to reclamation and enlistment."³

¹Paul F. Lazarsfeld, "Audience Research" in Bernard Berelson and Morris Janowitz, Public Opinion and Communication, The Free Press, Glencoe, Illinois, 1953, pp. 337-343

²John Harell, Teaching is Communicating, pp. 53-120

³John Bachman, The Church in the World of Radio-Television, Association Press, New York, 1960, p. 25

2. Technical Examination of the Channel.

In our diagram on page 91 we noted that the channel has a direct effect on receiving and yielding. We may also note that there is little effect from the particular channel upon motivation. There is, however, an important feedback relationship between yielding, and receiving once the communication process has started.

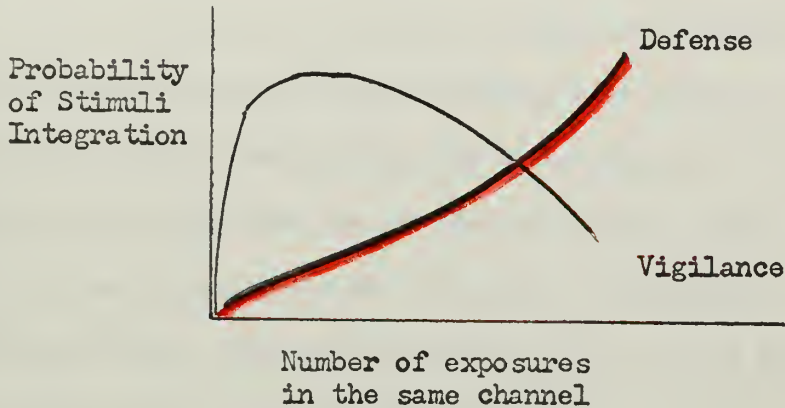
Stimuli integrations, as we said in our section on learning, are chained by contiguity. They "link" because of usually being found near each other. Rewarded experience does not have a heavy role in their formation. Feedback from certain mediators associated with the stimuli will effect the information stored in the learner, and will help him make new stimuli integrations as he meets new information. But the key word with stimuli integrations is "contiguity."

Now, obviously, no person is going to receive all the stimuli which are projected at him. The average person is subjected to about 15,000 messages every day. It has been found that the average person consciously receives only seventeen per cent of those messages.¹

The channel does have an effect on how much is received. If the channel is one toward which the person is alert or "vigilant" there is greater probability of acceptance. On the other hand, some channels have brought about an attitude of resistance or "defense." We have known for a long time that people develop resistance toward 'money appeals' from their church. They also develop defenses against the channels in which those appeals

¹John A. Howard, Op. Cit., pp. 8-35

are carried. Thus many communications from churches are ignored, letters are thrown away unopened. People have raised their level of defense. If we were to diagram this, we could determine the point for each channel where people would become defensive rather than vigilant.



The probability of stimuli integrations being formed would drop after a given number of exposures in the same channel. However, it is important to remember that some frequency in the same channel must be maintained or our target adults will not be vigilant toward our stimuli. Perhaps a balance, or a "Gestalt" of many channels is called here.

When we discussed motivation, we mentioned that the context or "set" in which the stimulus integration is presented and the insufficient information in the stimulus presentation itself or "hint" combine together to create an additional motivational state through NSPS which, if not too high, produces vigilance. This is called "paying attention" to the stimulus. Thus the fixation to a given stimulus integration in decoding is made more probable.

Another way of saying it is that motivation helps to "tune up" the

integrations, and to help attention and reception.

The combination of moderate motivation and moderate acquaintance with the channel of communication seems to be the optimum balance desired.

One should not forget the cultural envelope of the channel, that elusive, but important "setting" of each channel. Most newspapers and radio-television companies have gone to a great deal of expense to obtain demographic data which they are all too ready to provide to any who want to use their channels. They list their audience by sex, age, residence, vocation, educational level, household equipment, type of vacations, etc., etc. A wise choice of channel would include such demographic knowledge of that particular medium. The church has not been free of wastefulness in its use of the mass media. We so seldom stop to think about just who ever receives what we send out, and who is excluded from most church channels.

C. The Message.

1. General Comments. The key word about our message is testing! Testing for feedback is a universal need and a virtually universal omission. The major problem within religious circles has been the assumption that the message is received as it is projected. A great deal of "fuzzy" thinking about symbolization and signification has misled even the greatest theologians. The most basic, secular primers on communication thunders out at us, "Never assume that meaning can be communicated!" People assign meaning to messages they receive. People select mediators or images which they then attach to incoming messages.

a. Symbolization. Harold D. Lasswell was one of the first secular communications theorists to explode some of the mythology about symbols. He noted a great deal of weight being placed on national symbols, symbols for revolutions, etc. He noted that symbols do not unite all those of a supposed common cause. "Quite often," said Lasswell, "persons are related to the same object without a common externalized symbol of the object."¹ He searched for national symbols in pledges of allegiance, flags, veneration of constitutions, national holidays, possession of a distinctive vernacular language, and he found some which were quite circumscribed, e.g., "Ghandi." But none of these symbols could be said to have the exact same meaning to all recipients.

George Herbert Mead pointed out that it is the relationship of a set of responses in the individual himself which makes a significant symbol.² A more modern theorist, David K. Berlo, puts it even more bluntly, "Meanings are in people. They are the internal responses that people make to stimuli....Meanings are never fixed....No two people can ever have exactly the same meaning for anything....Many times two people do not even have similar meanings...."³

As the secular theorists understand symbolization, then, symbols cannot be said to contain meaning. People attach meaning. When we turn to the religious theorists we get quite a different view. Eugene A. Nida made an attempt to explain the

¹Harold D. Lasswell, "The Nature of Public Opinion" in Bernard Berelson and Morris Janowitz, Public Opinion and Communication, Op. Cit., p. 33

²George Herbert Mead, "Thought, Communication and the Significant Symbol," Ibid, p. 157

³David K. Berlo. The Process of Communication, p. 184

relationship of communication to mission. As he got into the problem, he recognized some sixty phonemes (similar sounding speech sounds) and studied morphemes (which he defined as minimal forms of speech having meaning).¹ Immediately, Nida is on a different track from the secular theorists!

Five years earlier the loveable, Christ-like, Lewis J. Sherrill, made the same mistake. As we noted in our introduction, he wrote, "While a symbol serves to communicate meaning...."² Again, he was immediately in opposition to secular theorists. Sherrill had more to say about the nature of symbols. He held that Biblical symbols "are by their own nature evocative."³ Now, symbols may or may not be evocative. It depends on whether or not the symbol is ever consciously received, the prior experience of the receiver with similar symbols and the particular stimuli integration, and mediator which happen to be selected by the receiver. Furthermore, most evocative symbolization takes place on the integration level of learning (where chaining takes place). And such stimuli integrations are below the level of awareness. It is most difficult to manipulate so-called "evocative symbols." They are, by past experience, more a part of the transaction between culture, and the individual as he sees his culture! In every case, we need to test, to get feedback from the recipient as to what meaning he has assigned to the symbols we projected at him.

¹ Eugene A. Nida, Message and Mission, Harper & Row, New York, 1960, pp. 63-135

² Lewis J. Sherrill, The Gift of Power, Macmillan Company, New York, 1955, p. 124

³ Ibid, p. 125

Perhaps these men were influenced by T. S. Eliot's theory of the objective correlative in which he held that only through the use of words that evoke exact and striking images can an emotional response be produced in the reader.¹ It is terribly, presumptuous to challenge Dr. Sherrill and T. S. Eliot. However, one is forced to conclude that their ideas about evocative symbols will only lead to further misunderstanding. In a way, it is a wishful attempt to avoid or short-circuit a great deal of difficult study. The symbol itself has no control over how it will be integrated with other stimuli and attached to particular mediators.

b. Perceived Instrumentality. In fairness to the good religious people referred to above, they are probably (this student has not tested for feedback!) equating symbols with perceived instrumentalities. That is, over a period of time, some words and phrases do have for a given group of people a commonly perceived meaning in a given context. Research has disclosed that perceived instrumentalities are quite rare.² Conditions which favor the formation of a perceived instrumentality are the lack of other words competing for association with the mediator and the mediator, itself, being easily identified by the source of the communication.

Even commercial experts make expensive mistakes in thinking of perceived instrumentalities. One study speaks of a company selling a household product, emphasizing that it "works faster." A consumer survey revealed that fifty-eight per cent of the people

¹Jurgen Ruesch and Weldon Kees, Non-verbal Communication, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1956, p. 14

²Howard, Op. Cit., pp. 8-50

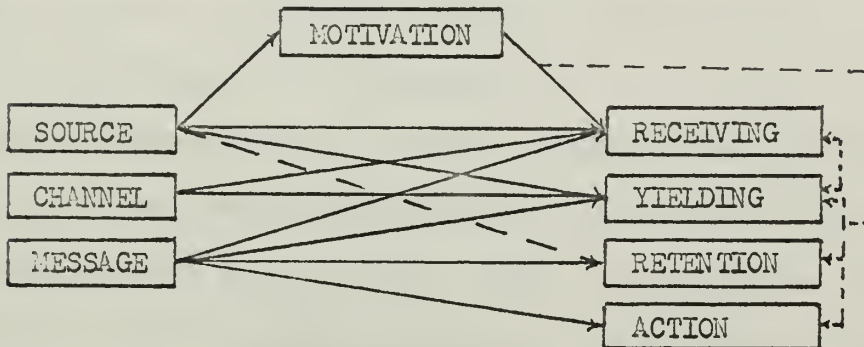
who used the brand said that they did so because it "is easy on the hands." Only two per cent mentioned that it is "quicker."¹

Over a long period of time within one congregation, which is very stable in membership, (and how many are stable in membership?) it might be assumed that some symbols become perceived instrumentalities. However, it would seem that the risks involved in making these assumptions far outweigh whatever convenience might come from their use. This should be kept very much in mind in preaching, teaching, and all our communication efforts!

¹Loc. Cit.

2. Technical Examination of the Message

Let us complete the diagram of the effect of the components of communication upon the psychological variables of the receiver. We noted earlier the effect of the source and the channel. Adding now the message we see:



We note immediately that the message is the only component which effects both motivation and all the psychological variables. Let us then consider some of the technical aspects of the message and their effect upon the psychological variables of the receiver.

a. Graphic Layout of the Message. Traditionally, layout has a number of elements: size, contrast, and position. We shall add in this category illustrations, color, other graphic elements, and brevity.

Layout is meant to do two things: (1) provide reward to the reader or viewer either by satisfying some of his motivation, satisfying him aesthetically or entertaining him, (2) making it possible to receive the message with the least possible effort. Layout is therefore a key step in communication.

i. Size is certainly an attention getting factor.

Nineteenth Century architects in our country knew this as they designed churches with higher and higher steeples. It applies as well to print. A full page story or advertisement will almost always attract more readers than coverage of just half a page. But there is not a direct relationship between number of readers and the size of the copy. Extensive readership studies tell us that the ratio can be determined in the following way. If "N" = the percentage of readers who note a story or advertisement of a given size and "x" = the predicted percentage of those who will note the story or ad twice the size, $x = 2N - .01N^2$ ¹ In otherwords, using this formula, we can determine the optimum size for our copy given a fixed budget and a minimum desired readership.

The size of the copy should also be considered when we want to aim our message at a new or old group of readers. Larger copy attracts a greater proportion of new readers. On the other hand, we can get by with smaller copy, and still get readership from old readers.

ii. Contrast and borders influence receiving. When stimuli link in integrations the process is helped by a phenomenon called "closure." Contrast and borders help closure. For example, the following is helped by closure with just a slight addition of ink.



¹Howard, Op. Cit., p. 8-36

Borders, or heavy dark masses against a light background help attract attention to a layout. (A study of the communications from "New Forms of Mission" by this student in 1965 showed that very few churches or agencies bother to heed the advice of professional communicators even in such simple things as contrast on the front covers of their literature.)

iii. Position of the story or advertisement within a given newspaper or periodical is important and has received much research attention. Anastasi and agencies such as MRCA and J. Walter Thompson have found that there is a higher readership of from thirty to sixty-four percent of the cover pages as against the inside pages of newspapers and magazines. In commercial media, the cost of outside positioning is usually twice the cost of inside positions. So, again, this factor must be considered within our total communication strategy.

Position of a story, or a notice, is important in two other respects. Over a period of time, readers develop habits of where to look for a particular item or subject (they learn where to look for the editorial, the sports news, the comics, the classified ads, the church news, etc.). There is wisdom in being consistent about position. The other aspect to keep in mind is our problem of integrating stimuli. It increases the probability of making successful stimuli integrations, if we place our story or notice near other similar stimuli. People have known this in an informal way for decades. Why do four gas stations situate themselves on the four corners of one intersection? Why do four churches do the same thing? They have learned (perhaps without realizing it) that more successful

stimuli integrations are made when there are similar stimuli in close proximity.

More and more today, we are noticing that some notices and advertisements are being positioned in more than one place in a given edition. Walter G. Mitchell has determined that it takes an average of eighteen exposures before new readers will notice for the first time any of his best layouts.¹ Some realism is called for on our part, then, when we wonder why not everyone knows about the church supper next week - for after all, we put it in the newsletter (once!).

iv. Illustrations have long been acclaimed in their advantage over mere words. Technically, every illustration is a cue. Stimuli integrations are speeded and reinforced with these kind of cues. Indeed, we might theorize that as an event or message becomes more difficult to describe with language, the greater is the need for illustration.

Professional illustrators know a certain amount about which types of illustrations will attract the most attention. For example, it has been determined by Dunn, Anastasi, Starch et al, that the illustrations of greatest attention value are: 1. Babies, 2. Mothers and babies, 3. Animals, 4. Personalities, and 5. Food pictures. But these pictures do not always go with the story or notice we wish to communicate. Again, we need to make a strategic decision.

Generally speaking, photographs have the advantage over

¹ Lecture at Columbia University, 9 November 1965

drawings or paintings in measurable qualities of liking, believability, and recall. However, almost without exception, humorous illustrations are better expressed in cartoon or drawn form. If our aim is to create the impression of absolute accuracy, we had best use photographs. If we wish to generalize, then drawings may be more advantageous.

Illustrations affect yielding in two ways. (a) Many illustrations by past experience come to have a connotative effect. They help attach a stimulus integration with a particular mediator. They do not guarantee this, but they help. For most American Christians, an Easter Lily will have a connotative effect on our cognition of the mediator, Easter. For others, it may bring up the mediator, "a sick room." (b) Illustrations also affect yielding by making much more accurate the visual decoding process.

v. Color really deserves a separate thesis for itself. A growing amount of research is, unfortunately, mixed with a growing amount of confusion about the importance of color in communication.

Color has the following advantages:¹

1. Attracting attention to the illustration.
2. Representing the objects with complete fidelity.
- 3... Emphasizing some special part of the message or object.
4. Suggesting abstract qualities appropriate to the goal.
5. Creating a pleasant first impression.
6. Creating status for the object being illustrated.

¹Thomas B. Stanley, The Techniques of Advertising Production, Prentice Hall, New York, 1954, p. 59

7. Fastening visual impressions in memory.

It is quite obvious that these advantages have a marked effect on the learner's psychological states of receiving and yielding.

Ernest Dichter claimed that the "most phylogenetically primitive emotional reaction can be induced by color. This dimension precedes developmentally all other basic areas."¹ Dr. Dichter does not give supportive data for this claim. More by intuition perhaps, he goes on to claim, "A simple blotch of intense red, for example, will readily induce associations in the respondents with "heat", "fire", "blood", "loudness." Combinations of black and red overlapping in an unsystematic order readily invoke "anxiety" and "depressive" reactions."²

Indeed, a great deal has been written in the area of color which needs to be looked at very critically. In fact, this should be the key concept: testing for feedback. When actually tested, these theories usually turn out to be true only under one given set of circumstances.

The lineal order of color preferences, for example, varies from survey to survey. Louis Cheskin, who is well known for his work with color, came up with a list of color preferences which was virtually reversed by a study done by the Kodak Company (using 21,060 observers) six years later.³

Color preference will often depend upon the color

¹ Ernest Dichter, The Strategy of Desire, Doubleday, New York, 1960, p. 130

² Loc. Cit.

³ Louis Cheskin, How to Predict What People Will Buy, Liveright Publ., New York, 1957, p. 174

background against which a particular color is displayed, and upon the order in which the colors are displayed.¹ One could vary the list of preferences by changing the background against which colors were displayed and by changing the order in which colors were presented to test panels. Cheskin astutely recognized that the color toward which people express favoritism is not always what they actually use.²

What we see here, then, is an attempt to do with color what others have tried to do with symbolization - inferring that specific colors have specific meanings. This simply will not stand up to the data. We must test for feedback, if we are to learn what meaning a particular color has to a particular group. This would apply to the decoration plans of a church school, the color used in choir robes, newsletters, and even the tents at a family camp.

From a financial point of view, much care needs to be taken in the use of color in illustrations. Using two colors against four colors may not always be the cheapest alternative! Most research agrees that adding two colors increases readership only one percent, but increases cost some seventeen percent. However, four-color illustrations increase readership on an average of fifty-four percent while costing forty-four percent more than black and white illustrations.³ Thus, in terms of increasing readers, four colors are cheaper than two.

¹ R. W. Burnham, R. M. Hanes, C. J. Bartleson, Color: A Guide to Basic Facts and Concepts, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1963, p. 208

² Louis Cheskin, Op. Cit., p. 194

³ Howard, Op. Cit., p. 8-40

Without question, color will have a connotative effect on the mediators which recipients of our message call up. However, the particular channel of stimulus integration to mediator is by no means automatic. It should be tested for validity.

vi. Printing types are important not only for legibility. The size, shape, and style of print have definite relationships to the integrations that we make, to our receiving state.

Some theorists have pointed out that sometimes if copy is slightly illegible that the resulting frustration will raise the motivational state of the reader. But others feel that increasing the motivation from the nonspecific projections system (NSPS) by this method usually results in going above the optimum level, and what we then get is defense or withdrawal. Again, it is the old "see saw" of trying to get some vigilance, but not too much for fear of getting defense.

Much research has been done to measure the effect of print in different colors. Black against either white or yellow seems to be read faster than any other combination.

Perhaps the key to printing types is familiarity. Paul F. Lazarsfeld summed this up, "People look not for new experiences in the mass media, but for a repetition, and an elaboration of their old experiences into which they can more easily project themselves."¹ Thus, we should really pursue feedback in the style of print we are using if we in fact wish to speed up the process of visual decoding. The only significant rule which this student could find for linking a specific type style with a given situation was that of using lower

¹Paul F. Lazarsfeld, Audience Research in Berelson and Janowitz, Op. Cit., p. 343 -

case letters for headlines when quick decoding is at a premium. The remainder may be summed up in finding out what is most familiar.

Perhaps because that is such a simple idea most people ignore it. At any rate most religious communicators ignore it.

Back in 1875, long before Madison Avenue's market research battalions, there was a Russian professor of agriculture who was really serious about communicating ideas for farm improvements. Apparently he had friends in the Russian post office. Some how he managed to intercept thousands of letters written by farmers to other farmers. He really wanted to know the best idiom for his agricultural bulletins. It is not recorded whether or not the farmers ever discovered why their mail was late!

Say this for some of the modern "MR" people - they are willing to spend hundreds of man-hours finding out the best idiom, type style, layout, etc. from panels of their target audience whom they are willing to pay for opinions. Complete theaters have been built to pretest commercials, measure pupil dilation for interest, etc.

And why do commercially oriented people do all this? Very simply - they have found that they can not afford not to do it. Their investments in new products and promotional campaigns are too heavy (some \$14,000,000,000.00 per year!)

Because commercial enterprises are willing to spend four times the total income of all charities and churches in our nation does not mean that we should surrender. We should do what research we can.

1. J.R. Kidd, Op. Cit. p.194

vii. Readable interest is used here to describe the combination of illustrations, brevity of description, and personal interest which together make a given message readable. After pouring over what some of the communications theorists, e.g., Rudolf Flesch and Wilbur Schramm et al, had to say about readability, this student feels that what is needed is a simple formula which laymen can use to test their own copy. Spending a great deal of time and money one can get a more accurate measure of readability. What seems more important is to have a useful tool as an initial check on readability.

Rudolf Flesch developed a series of tables in which he correlated the number of syllables, personal references, suffixes, and prefixes with the tested reading level of given ages. To test one chapter of copy by his method takes the better part of a day.¹

The student would like to propose the following formula listing much the same criteria, but in a form which should take no more than five minutes to apply.

$$LOP \frac{L}{W+W} \frac{S}{W+W} \div PW \div AV \div RT \div SC \div FL) = \text{Reader/interest}$$

In this measure:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| P= no. of pictures | AV= active verbs |
| L= no. of agate lines | RT= reader ties, demands for action or answers |
| W= no. of words of copy | SC= source credibility |
| S= no. of syllables | FL= follow-up cues, location, phone number, etc. |
| PW= no. of personal words | |

Ordinarily one would simply take a sample of copy to be tested and substitute values accordingly. Perhaps four column inches would be enough. The important thing here is to keep samples to the same size. The number of pictures in that section of copy

¹Rudolf Flesch, How to Test Readability, Harper, New York, 1951

(times ten) would be multiplied by the following total sum: the number of agate (printer's) lines (14 to the inch) and the number of syllables divided by the number of words of copy; plus the number of personal words (nouns or pronouns) in the sample; plus the number of active verbs; plus the number of times the copy tries to ellicit some response from the reader; plus the number of credible sources; plus the number of follow up hints or cues about the agency, e.g., location, phone number, person to contact, etc. A typical sampling of newspaper advertisements over a six month period by this student showed the following relative scores:

Marble Collegiate Church: 17

The NYC Protestant Council:90 (Note the effect of one illustration)

West End Collegiate Church: 5

The Community Church of NYC:9

The highest reasonable score for a given sample would be about 175.

Just the act of testing copy with such a measure as this has the effect of making one more conscious about using words with few syllables, short sentences, reader ties, illustrations, credible sources, and follow-up cues.

b. Content. The content of the message has a definite effect on the learner's motivation. This is a two-fold effect. There is a change in the order of hierarchy of motives which we spoke of as drive stimuli (directional) and a change in the level of expectation or arousal which we spoke of as nonspecific projection systems (NSPS).

i. Fear-arousing appeals tend to raise the NSPS level of the learner. In the experiment by Janis and Feshbach, where groups of high school students were given communications

about care of teeth which had increasingly strong fear-arousal warnings, e.g., from mere mention of cavity formation to such scare items as paralysis and blindness, a check of the actual resultant behavior showed that the group most changed was the mild appeal group and the group least changed was that which received the strongest fear-arousing appeal.¹ What was found here was another example of the defense vs. vigilance "see saw." The obvious conclusion is that fear arousing appeals should be used very cautiously lest we create defensive blocking instead of awareness and vigilance. Our more vigorous evangelists apparently do not see the validity of this phenomenon. They tend to pour on more "hell fire" when they see attention lagging. They often "block" all future communication.

ii. Conclusion drawing has always been an open question to the professional communicator. Should he simply present all the facts and let the learner draw his own conclusions? Or, should he continue on and communicate the conclusion which he wants the learner to make? The data suggests that the answer to this question depends on other variables, e.g., intelligence level, and educational background of the learner.

It has been found that conclusion-drawing helps the receiving state of the learner, but has little if no effect on the yielding state of the learner. This phenomenon is directly related to our next.

iii. To communicate a problem or a solution? Again there are attendant variables. The data seen by this student

¹See also Lucas and Benson, "The Relative Values of Positive and Negative Advertising Appeals" Journal of Applied Psychology 13:274-300

suggests that if the given communication involves a "higher" type of learning, i.e., concept formation or higher, it is best simply to state the problem, and not draw conclusions. It follows that when the aim is to transfer knowledge along the lines of automatic response behavior the conclusion must be presented.

Another aspect of this problem has to do with the nature of the material to be presented. Does it lend itself to "chaining"? Is there a logical sequence of ideas within the material which is easy for the learner to grasp? If the sequence is difficult then the solution had best be included. The reasoning ability of the target audience would also be a factor here.

iv. One and two sided communications are still another dilemma. The data shows inter-relationships of all four points.¹ In a one sided communication, if the originator of the message is trustworthy, it is better to draw a conclusion early on. If the learners are quite sophisticated, it is better to have the conclusion late in the message. This dilemma might be called another "see saw." The law of recency suggests that the last point mentioned is best remembered. It must be weighed against the law of primacy which claims that the most important point is the one best remembered, as coming first in the argument.

Now when it is decided to present two sides of an issue which side should be presented first? Again, the law of primacy says that people will remember the argument better if it is the first one they have to think about. The law of recency says that they remember

¹Carl I. Hovland, Irving L. Janis and Harold H. Kelley, Communication and Persuasion, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1953, pp. 99-120

better if our side of the argument is presented last. It seems like a hopeless "see saw."

Actually, the data suggests two guidelines. If the subject matter is one of declining interest then we should use the law of primacy and put our argument first. If the subject matter is of increasing interest, we should hold our argument to the last. One might say that these guidelines do not need data. They seem logical in themselves. They are. However, the typical communicator never stops to think about them. The data only supported what seems like reasonable guidelines.

We have intimated that if there is a great deal of opposition to our position that more effect is gained by a two-sided argument (presentation). Hovland found over the years that in composing our communication we are wise to mention the main arguments against our position at the outset, especially if these are not easily refuted.¹ He found that it is wise to also present early the appeals to the motives of those members of the audience opposed to our point of view. It is better, according to Hovland, not to make any refutation of opposing views unless obviously compelling, and strictly factual refutation is available! Refutations are best left for the last portion of our message, if we do in fact decide to use them. The key idea throughout this phenomenon is to avoid letting the audience identify themselves as members of the opposition.²

¹Ibid, p. 106

²Loc. Cit.

And, you may ask, just what is all this fuss about? What is the use of worrying about this in the long run? The point is, especially if our audience is being exposed to counter-persuasive communication, that by our mentioning their arguments in our communication we have already "innoculated" our audience. According to Hovland's data this tends to have the same effect as innoculating with a few bacteria against the mass attack which might come later. It makes the recipient more "immune."

It has also been found that two-sided arguments assist retention. Professor McGuire, who is a proponent of this "innoculation" theory, did an experiment with high school youth exposing one group to a one sided argument saying that Russia lagged five years behind the United States in the production of atomic weapons. Sixty-four percent accepted the message. Another group was exposed to a two-sided argument saying that there was some question as to whether Russia was five years behind the United States. Sixty-four percent of the second group accepted the premise that the United States was five years ahead. A few months later, when the world learned that Russia exploded her first atomic weapon, only two percent of the first group thought we had any lead, but sixty-one percent of the second group held to the five-year lead of the United States.¹

v. The goal of the communicator within the message is not always as obvious as might first be assumed. All of us have had the experience of stopping someone to ask them about a statement

¹ McGuire, "Inducing Resistance to Persuasion" in L. Berkowitz, Advances in Experimental Social Psychology, Holt, New York, 1964

If theirs and have heard them reply, "I wonder what I meant to say by that"? If the originator is not sure of the goal within his message then heaven help the receiver!

Ernest Dichter is president of the Institute of Motivational Research, a controversial figure in both business and academic circles, and one of the most sought-after experts in communication in our nation. A large number of religious groups have gone to him for advice, perhaps thinking that he might give them some "magic" formula for better influencing adults. In Dr. Dichter's words to every religious group, he had to say, "Your goals are too lofty."

It may be that the goal of our message is a "lofty" goal. However, if it is perceived as "too lofty" we decrease motivational NSPS so that the hierarchy of mediators is rearranged and the image fades like air going out of a tire. A "lofty" goal does not have to be couched in "lofty" terminology.

It may also be that the goal of our message is not explicit. Malcolm Boyd has contributed much to the Christian community by his pointing up the worth of implicit communication, e.g., the negative witness of No Exit or Citizen Kane.¹

In either case, (explicit or implicit) the originator should be sure of the goal within the message, and be very conscious of the level of that perceived goal. David H. C. Read pointed out that we sometimes fall in the trap of perpetuating secular myths instead of Biblical concepts by our inadvertent emphasis on secular

¹Malcolm Boyd, Crisis in Communication, Doubleday & Co., Garden City, New York, 1957, p. 48

illustration. He may be "eliciting, probably unconsciously, his message from those to whom he speaks, rather than witnessing to the truth of the entrusted message."¹ Certainly more clear thinking is called for as we examine the content of the message itself.

We are not suggesting that the message should always be "palatable." It may be an antagonizing method which we are compelled to project. On our continent, James Sellers, has picked up Bultmann's idea that our point of contact with the outside community should be a point of conflict.² We shall not pass judgement here on the quality of the content. We are saying that the originator should be very conscious of the goal of his own message.

vi. The style of the message is terribly important according to Ernest Dichter.³ His advice to the religious communicator centers about the construction of a style which is not "lofty" but on a level or series of levels within the receiver's experiential world.

Dr. Dichter suggests that we not use Old English script and that we avoid giving a "monologue" style to our message. The copy should attempt to create a dialogue. He feels that a psychological layout should coexist with the artistic layout so that we can point to thought units as well as word units, emotional tones as well as color tones. After all the advice is in and after all the available skill has been used to compose a given message, we must still test that message for "feedback." After testing our message a

¹David H. C. Read, The Communication of the Gospel, London, SCM Press, 1952, p. 18

²James E. Sellers, The Outsider and the Word of God, Abingdon, New York, 1961, pp. 57, 224

³Ernest Dichter, in an address to the American Marketing Association at Columbia University on 1 December 1965

number of times, we would still risk communicating goals other than those which we intended to project. However, the very style of our message will add another set of stimuli integrations which will, in time, help to channel folk toward the image we hope is formed in their minds.

C. The Context of the Message. We should say a few words about the "stance" or context of the message - not so much from the technical view, but more from the theological perspective. In other words, we need to "run up a flag" under which our message is meant to work. Just as the Cancer Fund has premises upon which they choose to communicate, so we need a way of looking at the grounds for our projecting any message to adults in the area of planned learning.

i. Hendrik Kraemer. The late Hendrik Kraemer did the Christian world family a great service ten years ago when he gave it a short, but rich summary of principles for communicating the Christian Faith. While Kraemer made some of the same technical errors made by Tillich and Sherrill, his Biblical orientation for communication must stand as a classic.

Within his Biblical orientation, Kraemer speaks of communication between and communication of, dialogue between man and man, or man and God, and the communion of man and God in Christ. In both aspects of communication, (between and of) defectiveness or short-circuiting is a sign of our fallen status. "Only the re-creation, the re-storing, of the right relationship with God can be the basis of the re-creation of true, unfrustrated communication with each other....In principle Jesus Christ is the sole ground on which full and true communication can become effective."¹

Kraemer uses the story of the Fall, the account of the Tower of Babel, to symbolize man's breaking down communication with God, and with his neighbor. He uses the opening verses of I

¹Hendrik Kraemer, Op. Cit., pp. 18-21

John as a kind of Magna Carta of communication in that same Biblical sense:

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you, the eternal life which was with the Father, and was made manifest to us - that which we have seen and heard, we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete."

But the problem in this kind of communication is, to Kraemer, much larger than finding more understandable language.

"The communication of the Gospel is neither primarily, nor ultimately dependent on our human ability to communicate (!!!)...The primary author of the effective transmission is the Holy Spirit."¹

Now this student has witnessed much travesty in the name of the Holy Spirit. But he believes that he has also known moments when communication could not in any traceable way depend on human ability. So he wants to leave room for Kraemer's contextual insight here. The aim of all our efforts in planned learning for adult Christians is not just persuasion - but, conversion. No - more than that - it is continuous encounter between God and His entire family!

The context of our message which is so often hidden, or even forgotten, is that (1) the Kingdom of God is at hand, and that (2) the Galilean Jesus Christ is the expected Messiah. Even our most primitive friends have noticed that it is rather difficult to have dialogue with someone who is "dead." Sophisticated folk

¹Ibid, p. 28

are not always as discriminating, however, in maintaining dialogue when they have already assumed that one party is "dead." We are not here referring to the need to axe away "dead symbols." Rather, we are pointing to the terrifying awareness that a living Holy Spirit is a party to our dialogue with our neighbors. It is thus mandatory that we be more precise in our dialogue, and that we use every technical skill and understanding thus far discovered!

ii. Paul Tillich. This student finds that the contributions of the late and beloved Dr. Tillich, regarding communication, are far more help to us in creating a contextual framework, than they are in forming technical strategems. So well read in so many fields, e.g., depth psychology, higher mathematics, art, literature, medicine, politics, and history, it seems tragic that Dr. Tillich did not seem inclined to wrestle with the communication theorists who were at work during his day.

Dr. Tillich did speak to the cavernous vacuum of communication theory within the Christian community. But he spoke with a "fuzziness" about methodological problems, which in this student's opinion only perpetuate "fuzzy" thinking in such disciples of his as Professor Thomas Driver.

The contribution of Dr. Tillich, most quoted by today's pioneers of "New Mission," is his "Communicating the Gospel."¹ He addressed himself to the question of how we make the Gospel message heard and seen - and then either rejected or accepted. He directed us to look at where our target audience is living - in the milieu of

¹Paul Tillich, "Communicating the Gospel" in Union Seminary Quarterly Review, VII No. 4, June, 1952, pp. 3-10

human existence, suffering from the anxiety, guilt, and tragedy. As to how we communicate, he said, "Communication is a matter of participation." He meant that the key to our communication with a given group of people is our participation in their existence. He then went on to describe how Sin, salvation (healing) and New Being needed to be restated.

Dr. Tillich felt that too often we leap to bring people past the "stumbling block" of the Faith, not realizing that we may have brought people to the wrong "stumbling block." He felt that our mission is simply to "bring people face to face with the right stumbling-block, and to enable them to make a genuine decision."¹

This is all very well for a contextual setting. Indeed, it is most valuable.² But it is hardly an explicit aid. It is no wonder that some of his disciples today are using him as a sponsor or source credit for such ideas as that the dramatic art form can not be thought of as communication unless the audience participates in the same symbols, that meaning is communicated only as people participate, etc. Dr. Tillich's thoughts were normative contextually - not pragmatically. They put us under the "right flag." They help us not a wit from that point on.

iii. A proposed context for our message. This student would like to propose the following as a "stance" or context of any message projected in the name of planned learning for adult

¹Loc. Cit.

²See also his exegesis of these same three points in his The Protestant Era, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1948, pp. 202-205

Christians.

1. The spirit of love, Christ-like love, should permeate all our communications. To persuade is one thing. To exploit is quite another thing. The norm for all our efforts should be Agape-type love.

2. As Kraemer pointed out, we should be keenly aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit whenever we seek to communicate. This presence is both comforting and demanding.

3. As Tillich warned us, we should be conscious of the possibility of bringing adults to the wrong "stumbling blocks." This in one sense lengthens our context. It means that we must project ahead with our plans. (More will be said about this in our section on innovation.)

4. There is unsettling truth in the statement that 'when I speak - I speak to the whole human race.' Herbert McCabe captured the essence of this in his rejoinder to Joseph Fletcher in their discussion of the "New Morality."¹ He concluded, "It is because my membership of the human race has implications for all I do that situationism, the new morality, is an inadequate account of human behavior." This belongs in the context of our message.

5. We ought to be mindful of how faith has been communicated within our Biblical tradition. We should be very cautious in ever assuming that our message can ever really provide a short-cut as against the slow cultural transmission, and re-sifting of Revelation in history.

Dr. Nelson has pointed us toward a new respect for the cultural

¹ Herbert McCabe, "The Validity of Absolutes" in Commonweal, 14 January 1966, Vol. LXXXVIII No. 14

envelope within which our communication proceeds.

As with Kraemer and Tillich, these points should be included contextually, and not pragmatically.

D. The Receiver

Thinking back to our diagram, we recall that the receiver is effected by the source, channel, and message. We also saw that there is a feedback within the psychological variables, once motivation has been altered, and once the message has entered the learner's awareness.

But we have not yet really looked closely at the learner as the receiver of communication. Let us look at three specific personality variables of the learner, and try to understand their relationships to the communication process.

1. Specific Personality Variables of the Learner.

a. Intelligence. As we might expect, intelligence is directly related to the receiving state. Taken by itself, the higher the intelligence quotient - the higher is interest in outside messages, the longer is attention span, and the greater is the ability to comprehend.

Some authorities also feel that higher intelligence indicates greater sensory correlates in the sensory cortex. At any rate, with the more intelligent receiver, perception of messages is apt to be clearer, sensory integrations are apt to occur more quickly, and more reliably. While it cannot be said that intelligence has a causal relation to education, there is usually an association with more education, and thus an exposure to a wider variety of stimuli, and channels of stimuli.

However, not all is of the positive side for communication with the increase of intelligence. Intelligence tends to have a negative effect on yielding. The data suggests that a person with more intelligence tends to have greater confidence in his own opinions.¹ He also has greater ability in defending his own views, and detecting any flaws in our message. It follows that if our message is to effect the learning of the more intelligent receiver - the content had best be loaded with rational grounds for persuasion.

We can see the yielding and receiving "see saw" at work, this time from the learner's point of view, (not the message's), and plot from the data not only receiving, but retention of learning.

The combined curve shows the optimum level of response. It does not mean that we ought not to try to

communicate beyond the optimum. Rather, it points out how beyond that point we need to be extra careful with our communication

Intelligence and Influencibility



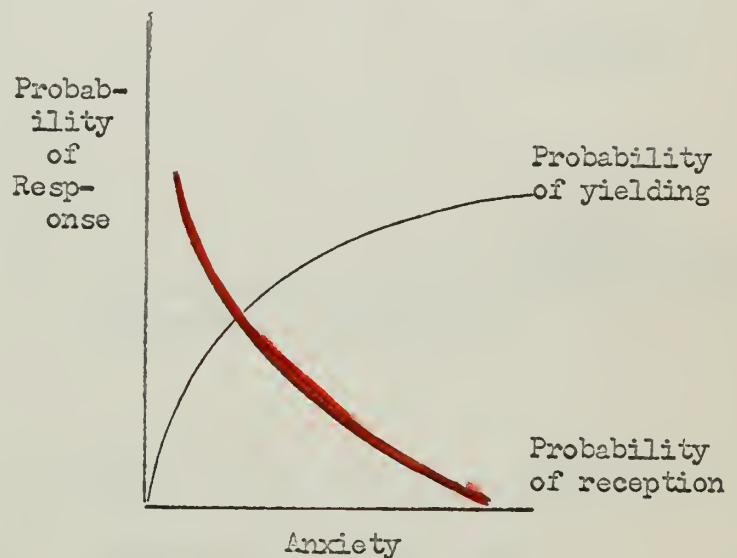
¹Howard, Op. Cit., pp. 8-61

content.

b. Anxiety. The reverse effect seems to be true of anxiety. In general the anxious person tends to be more withdrawn and preoccupied with his own troubles. Outside communications do not seem to get past his awareness defenses. When we spoke earlier of the NSPS motivational level increasing so that vigilance was turned into defense, we saw that a highly anxious person would be less likely to "see" even those things he "wanted to see."

Generally, however, the more anxious a person is the more fluid his hierarchy of mediators is apt to be, and the less stable will be his channels of responses. He generally will be less able to defend his views against change.

Anxiety and Influencibility

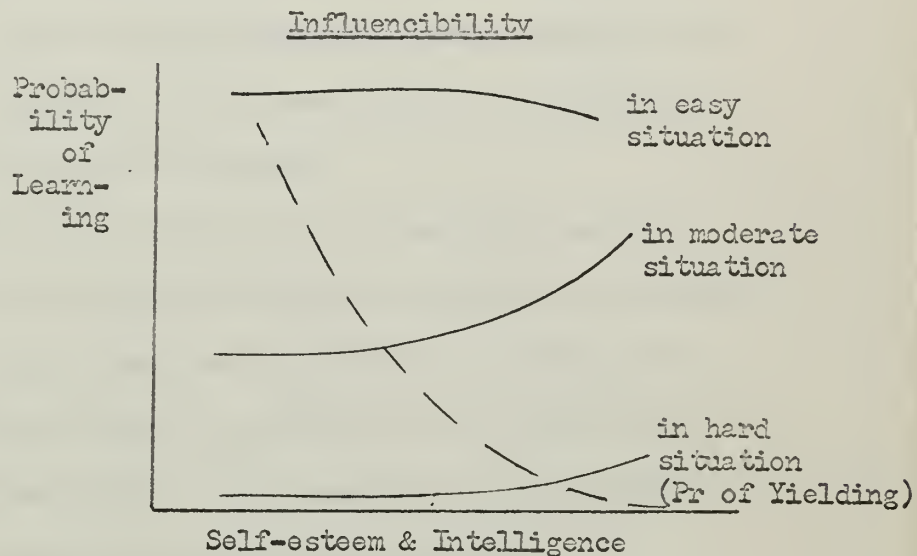


c. Self-esteem. The image we have of ourselves has a more positive relation to receiving. But, as with intelligence, the stronger our self image, the less is the probability of our yielding to outside communication. We could really substitute self-esteem for intelligence to plot Howard's data for the effect of self-esteem upon communication.

The difficulty, of course, is that these variables are not usually isolated. One does not usually find a person who is either anxious or intelligent. The key here is to try to isolate variables where we can, and when we can.

2. The Situation of the Receiver. As we shall see in greater detail in our section on innovation, learning is greatly effected by the personal environment of the receiver.

As it appears from the data which has thus far been collected, a moderately difficult situation has proven to be an incentive for a higher learning curve than either an "easy" or "very difficult" situation. The data also suggests that in a moderately difficult environment, the best results are gained when the communication itself is moderately difficult. It should, please forgive the word, be a "challenge" to the learner.



3. How the Source appears to the Receiver. Various scales of authoritarianism have been worked out. In general, the more authoritarian the receiver tends to be, the more important it is that the source of a communication be one whom he regards positively. Those with a high "category width" are less influenced

by source differences.

4. How the Channel appears to the Receiver. Research by Katz, Menzel, and Coleman indicates that the channel of a communication has a differing effect according to the personality of the receiver.

If the receiver tends to be withdrawn, considers himself a failure, etc., then he is more apt to value impersonal communication, e.g., printed newsletters, and radio messages. With higher self-esteem, channels such as face-to-face conversation, meetings, etc., tend to be more desirable.

The Church at large does not always realize the potential it has by way of personal influence, and how as a channel, it is in some circumstances much more influential than mass media. (It is said that some politicians do appreciate the potential of personal channels in the church, e.g., when Adam Clayton Powell gets five thousand women to start making phone calls).

Katz and Lazarsfeld found personal influence nearly seven times more effective than printed media in effecting change in brands of household products.¹ The advantage here is not only in source credibility, but in the environment for immediate feedback. After some companies have had the experience of Walter G. Mitchell, for example, and found that at least eighteen exposures to printed media are necessary before their receiver ever "receives" (at a total cost of some \$8.50/receiver), they are turning back to personal salesmen (where the average completed housecall is about

¹
Op. Cit., p. 176

(2.50).¹

As the learning situation becomes more important to the receiver, personal sources of information also become more important. Mass media declines in importance at that same time. In political elections, Lazarsfeld has strong evidence that mass media serves best to reinforce already existing attitudes rather than to change attitudes.

The problem with any channel is first of all in getting a given message past the obstacle of competing messages.² Perhaps it is easiest to think of it in this way. If our receiver is the type to come out of his house, then personal sources are the most effective channel. If he stays in the house and won't open the door, then mass media are more effective. A brilliant statement, that!

5. The Receiver's Time Schedule. The oversight of so much planned adult learning has been to ignore the learner's very personal time schedule. We so often load our curriculum with sex education for the early adolescent, and avoid it for the late adolescent, when perhaps the problems is many times more agonizing.

Say this for the commercial world: it begins long in advance (too far in advance, we say) to prepare its audience for the important religious observances of Christmas and Easter. We tend to wait until they arrive.

Commercial purveyors of communication know at what

¹ Lecture at Columbia University, 9 November 1965

² Wilbur Schramm, The Science of Human Communication, Basic Books, New York, 1963, p. 12

Age level people are most apt to make plans for the cemetery plots they will someday require. We tend to speak about death at funerals.

The commercial communicators are more and more, not only segmenting their target audience by demographic data, but chronologically according to what personal crises are, most apt to be very existential to the people with whom they desire to communicate. And while we have loaded our curricula with some excellent insights from developmental psychology of children and adolescents, it seems that we ignore the "time schedule" of adults. This student feels that very little literature exists regarding the developmental psychology from middle-adolescence up until the period we start using "geriatric" as an adjective. Until the academicians get busy on this, such sources as the Journal of Marketing may be our most fruitful authorities.

INNOVATION - FINDING A NEW PLACE FOR PLANNED ADULT
LEARNING WITHIN CULTURE

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer."¹

A. Introduction

1. Determinants of the Learner's Perception of Innovation.
 - a. Awareness
 - b. Mediated Generalization
 - c. Mediated Transfer
2. Characteristics of any Innovation.
 - a. Relative Advantage
 - b. Compatability
 - c. Complexity
 - d. Divisibility
 - e. Communicability
3. Characteristics of the Innovation Adopters.
 - a. Innovators
 - b. Early Adopters
 - c. Early Majority
 - d. Late Majority
 - e. Laggards

B. Innovation as Learning

1. Automatic Response Behavior (ARB) and Extended Problem Solving (EPS).
2. Extinction of past learning.
3. Novelty.
4. Learning characteristics of the adopters.
5. Imitative Learning (Howard's Projective Level and Hall's Informal Level)
 - a. Copying
 - b. Matched-dependent Behavior
 - c. Rumors

C. A Gestalt of Innovation

1. A Paradigm of Change

CHAPTER : INNOVATION - FINDING A NEW PLACE FOR PLANNED ADULT
LEARNING WITHIN CULTURE.

A. Introduction.

The introduction of some change into culture by deliberate plan is what is meant here by "innovation." Obviously, innovations are continually being accepted in our culture. Transformations in food preparation, clothing, shelter, armed defense, medicine, the Latin Mass, legislation, art, inter-planetary travel are in various stages of acceptance. The quality of "newness" is really the only thing which distinguishes "innovation" from "change."

The reader may well ask, what is new about planned adult learning? This question is crucial. If only one per cent of our adult population within the Christian community is currently active in any form of planned learning experience sponsored by the Church - then any positive change will have to be an innovation. And unless techniques of spreading innovation are employed, one doubts if new attempts at planned learning for adults will have any more lasting effect than a simple technical change in the curriculum. We need to operate as if no adult had ever heard of our plans! To be sure, we will endeavor to "hook in" on old stimuli, and mediators, but our overall strategy will be one of innovation.

When we deal with innovations, we are really combining what we have said thus far about culture, learning, and communication. The mysterious and elusive question of why some innovations are accepted, and others are rejected, will vex us

throughout this section.

1. Determinants of the learner's perception of innovation.

a. Awareness. Naturally, our first problem is getting our innovation included in the evoked set of alternatives of the learner. When we spoke of representational learning, and the place of the mediator ($r_m - s_m$), we referred to the divergent hierarchies associated with a particular mediator. We hope to place our innovation as an alternative in that hierarchy.

But even when our innovation is accepted in a hierarchy of alternatives, we have not yet established what meaning our innovation has for the learner.

b. Mediated generalization. It may be that our learner is simply making more than one response to similar stimuli. In other words, if he has started to shift his hierarchies, our innovation may have entered his hierarchy almost accidentally. The learner here is not consciously aware of our stimuli or message. With a response which has brought him into our circle of activity, he is really responding consciously to an old sign or symbol with a new response. We do not "knock" this event. When it occurs, we try to reinforce the experience so our learner will henceforth include our stimuli in his conscious state of alternatives.

c. Mediated transfer. If the learner has been making similar responses, e.g., participating in planned learning programs sponsored by other agencies, and our stimulus finds a favorable place in his hierarchy of alternatives, he will be bringing an old response to a new stimulus. This is called mediated transfer.

The important feature from our point of view, with both mediated generalization and transfer, is the perceived characteristics of our innovation. Once these characteristics break into the conscious hierarchy of existing alternatives, our innovation will take on its own future probability of occurrence at the integration level.

If the adult has had no experience with a structured, planned adult learning program, then the probability of existing alternatives is probably equal. We will then have at least a chance probability of breaking into the learner's awareness. A learner who is already involved in a structured program is less likely to place our program very high in the hierarchy of his alternatives.

2. Characteristics of any Innovation.

Everett M. Rogers is responsible for perhaps the most oft quoted work in cultural innovation. While most of his work was done in a rural setting, his principles have been confirmed by anthropologists, and communication theorists in both rural and urban settings from all corners of the world. He sees five major characteristics of any innovation.¹ These are: relative advantage, compatibility, complexity, divisibility, and communicability. They are not independent characteristics, nor are they exhaustive. We shall look at them briefly with the Hullian formula we spoke about in learning: $R = H (M+K) - I^a - I^n$.

a. Relative advantage. We are interested in what the learner sees as an advantage in selecting our program. It

¹Everett M. Rogers, Diffusion of Innovations, Free Press of Glencoe, New York, 1964, p. 124

may be for economic, social, academic, or emotional reasons. The innovation must be viewed as superior to the alternative it supersedes in some way that is significant to the learner.

It may be that the learner has attached meanings to innovations in general. He has learned that he usually is rewarded by going along with innovations. (Here is an example of mediated generalization.) If the learner views the existing alternatives and includes ours on his hierarchy, and moves toward us, we assume that he sees some relative advantage. (He is operating with mediating transfer.)

In the latter case, our "K" factor (reinforced experience) must be higher than other existing alternatives. The "H" factor, (Habit, or number of trials), is inoperative. The "M" (motivation) may be thought of as constant for any of the alternatives, although there may be a bit of the directional component (DS) within motivation making response integrations more favorable to us. In other words, even though "H" has a multiplicative function, it may be outweighed by the strength of "K" in our innovation..

Outside conditions may alter the NSPS component of motivation, i.e., the level of aroused anxiety. Some authorities feel that depressions and wars retard the adoption of educational innovations. On the other hand, some crises hasten some innovation adoptions. On logical grounds, we might assume that wars and depressions reduce the number of alternative actions for nearly everyone, as well as imposing financial and time limitations upon adults.

The responsibility for determining the projected

relative advantage rests with us. This is not something which we may leave to "fate." Ours is the responsibility of trying to communicate the "K" qualities.

b. Compatability has to do with the way our innovation blends in with the learner's existing goals, needs, and values. The more compatible our innovation is, with not only the learner's but his society's values - the better the probability of adoption.

As Professor Nelson has pointed out on several occasions, the formation of existing values and beliefs by one's immediate society is incredibly complex. We could not hope to change these directly. These very attitudes which we learn unconsciously set up anticipations which are excited by stimuli from innovations. If the individual has learned that such experiences are unrewarding or painful ("I²"), the probability for adoption goes down. We have here another of our "see saws." This one is called, approach-avoidance. Some arousal of anxiety will motivate us to approach an innovation. Too much anxiety will urge us to avoid it. If there is ambiguity or conflict about our innovation, we can and should provide information to help reduce the ambiguity. Obviously, we can do nothing now about the learner's past, unrewarded experience.

c. Complexity. When we spoke of Hall's three levels of culture, we noted that change on the technical level was much easier to effect. One reason for this is that technical change is relatively clear-cut. Formal change is loaded with ambiguity. We may think of complexity as an "Iⁿ" factor in our equation.

And according to some data, the complexity (I^n) can be strong enough in some cases to outweigh the rest of the factors ($H(M+K)-I^a$), and keep them beneath the threshold of adoption. Kivlin, for example, thinks this is the most important factor in rural innovations.

d. Divisibility. Divisibility is the degree to which an innovation may be tried on a limited basis. There is a big difference between sitting in on one adult seminar, and taking an educational world cruise. A significant part of divisibility, then, is the perceived risk of our innovation.

Most theorists agree that the higher the perceived risk for our innovation, the greater the loyalty for what the adult is currently doing. In the process of evaluating risk and divisibility, the learner actually "tunes up" (NSPS) many interfering responses.

A mundane example of this is recalled by everyone who has suffered through a sermon which was too long. The preacher may have had his congregation rationally and emotionally ready to accept an innovative idea. However, he kept on with his anxiety-invoking diatribe, beyond the point where interference of a mild nature was helping him. As the anxiety increased, the risk was perceived as too great by the adult.

e. Communicability. Our aim is to spread our innovation. Communicability is obviously an essential characteristic to any innovation. It must be communicable with regard to what are the procedures, and consequences with its adoption. And, it must be communicable by the adults who have already adopted the program.

Linton, Erasmus, and Ogburn point out that material,

and visual innovations are more rapid than habits or attitudes. This coincides with what Hall said about change.

3. Characteristics of the Innovation Adopters.

It would be a serious mistake to assume that the process of spreading innovation depended entirely upon the innovation itself. There is a great variety of attitudes toward innovation within the adult population of any society. As children, we played "follow the leader." As adults, we play "follow the pioneers, the progressivists, the drones, or the opinion leaders," (depending upon which theorist's terminology we happen to like). Rogers standardized our terminology here by giving us five groupings:

- a. Innovators (the venturesome, lonely minority)
- b. Early Adopters (tend to be younger, with a higher IQ, social and financial status)
- c. Early Majority (those who deliberate over changes)
- d. Late Majority (those who are skeptical about any change)
- e. Laggards (the minority who stick to¹ tradition)

Several observations can be made about these groups. The data shows us that the Innovators tend to be outside the established leadership circles of the community. It takes them less time to try out an innovation. Earlier adopters tend to be closer to the leadership circles. Apparently, their opinions carry the crucial weight in most innovations. While the official leaders tend to remain within the Early Majority group, their opinions do

¹Rogers, Op. Cit., pp. 168-171

not necessarily produce innovation. Frequently, they tend to wait to get a feel of "consensus."

George Homans pointed out that both the Innovators, and the Laggards, are regarded as deviants.¹ For different reasons, they both are outside the main stream of social change. There is a danger, however, in making too-simple generalizations. We would like to go on to examine innovation as another example of "learning."

B. Innovation as Learning.

Apart from the "insightful," or "discovery" experience of the first innovator, the process of innovation diffusion may be thought of as cultural learning. Herbert Hyman feels that all political behavior is learned behavior.² Economic, moral, and even patriotic factors may influence cultural change. Still, the process involves learning. Again, speaking of politics, Hyman argued, "Individuals are socialized into politics on the basis of their experiences in given groups and environments, yes, but they are not victimized by such experience. They learn - they receive ideas, but they also actively judge the environment, and select experience."³

Let us then examine the extent of learning within the innovator, and see its relationship to adoption of innovation.

1. Automatic Response Behavior and Extended Problem Solving.

¹George C. Homans, The Human Group, Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc., New York, 1950, pp. 336-358

²Herbert H. Hyman, Political Socialization, The Free Press, Glencoe, Illinois, 1959, p. 17

³Ibid, p. 168

In various areas of our daily living, we operate at different levels of learning. In the automatic response level (ARB), a stable flow of cues, and responses is in operation. The hierarchies of signs and integrations of responses are quite well "channeled." There is not much danger, then, of new cues or responses entering those hierarchies. Putting it another way, an adult operating at the ARB level may be thought of as having completed much of the necessary learning at that level.

On the extended problem solving stage of learning (EPS), however, the adult is in a sense just beginning to learn (about that particular problem). He has not yet "hardened" his evocative, and predictive processes. The probability of innovation becoming stable within his hierarchies, when they are formed, is much higher here. The "icing on the cake" is when he forms his mediators in this area of life. Our innovation will have a much better chance of taking on "meaning," if it can be included in the hierarchy of mediators.

Churchmen do not have to look far for an extremely practical application of this insight. If you wanted to inoculate an adult with a new attitude about the "mission of your church in your neighborhood," would you concentrate on adults, who had developed strong hierarchies of mediators - or - upon those just going into the extended problem stage of learning? That is, would you concentrate on Church Officer Training or upon A POST-COMMUNICANT CLASS? (The student is hinting.)

The churchman of long standing has, he thinks, finished a lot of his learning. His perceptual bias tends to exclude

stimuli, which are new or challenging to what he has already learned. He has learned how to fulfill his presently conceived role with the minimum of effort.

The fledgling churchman is actively seeking information about this new situation within which he finds himself. Commercial data shows that post-decision anxiety (which usually accompanies major decisions) has the effect of thrusting the adult out after more information. He will read more, and notice more about this area of concern than he did before his decision was made! He is willing to expend much more energy than is the man in the ARB stage.

2. Extinction of Past Learning.

Not every innovation requires the extinction of an old concept or pattern of behavior. But frequently, especially with developing attitudes, an innovation will demand that our learners give up an old attitude. Generally, an adult who accepts healthier attitudes about members of another race will have to give up ideas he had before, including the usual responses he made to stimuli which had racial connotations. If we really wanted to spread the "new morality," we would have to work for the extinction of the "old morality" (whatever that is!). Leon Festinger has shown us with his theory of cognitive dissonance that adults will not continue to live indefinitely with conflicting attitudes. Either, by changing their beliefs, or their actions, they will in some way reduce the tension of the conflict.¹

In our scheme of communication, we said that

¹Wilbur Schramm, Op. Cit., p. 23

mediators are connected with stimuli integrations, and response integrations by what we called "channels." Over a period of time, some channels are strengthened by rewarded association. It would logically follow that if we were able to deprive our target adults from the accustomed gratification for old patterns of behavior - mediated transfer would be speeded toward other responses.¹

This concept is hardly new. Most mothers practice the withdrawal of reward to undesired behavior in their children by at least ignoring that behavior.

Unfortunately, at least in many cases, another effective way of bringing extinction, or forgetting, into play is by outside imposition of restraint. The history of the literacy programs in India is full of examples of the literacy rate dropping back down again in areas where there was no opportunity to practice literacy because of economic restraint.

Outside restraint does not always work for extinction. During World War II, both the Russians, and the Germans, though usually expert in propaganda, made strong attempts to extinguish attitudes only to have their efforts "boomerang." The Russians tried to enlist German prisoners on their side by discrediting Hitler. The Germans tried to drive a wedge between the British, and the Americans at Anzio saying to each that the other was not carrying his fair share. In both examples, the attitudes only stiffened.²

¹Charles P. Loomis in Warren G. Bennis, Kenneth D. Benne, and Robert Chin in The Planning of Change, Holt Rinehart, Winston, New York, 1961, p. 224

²Martin Herz, "Some Psychological Lessons from Leaflet Propaganda in World War II" in Daniel Katz, Dorwin Cartwright, Samuel Eldersveld, Alfred Lee, Public Opinion and Propaganda, The Dryden Press, New York, 1954, p. 543

All theorists agree that many more innovations take place when the economy is on the up-swing, when many constraints are falling away. It is possible to pointedly remove old rewards for undesired responses, even as constraints are falling away. For example, the actual extinction of a reward system in Sunday schools is a relatively easy thing to accomplish, if the overall attitude of that school is one of rising enthusiasm.

The late Edwin R. Guthrie, perhaps Watson's closest disciple in the behaviorist tradition, did not really explain extinction. He simply noted that new habits replace old habits when the old habits are not accompanied by stimuli. (Guthrie did not speak of reinforcement in the usual sense.) No habit was ever weakened. It was simply replaced. We include this thought simply to point out that not everyone agrees with the idea that forgetting can be manipulated.¹

This student feels that Hull's theory of extinction has more merit. Hull said that the number of unreinforced experiences leading to extinction could be predicted. Most controlled experiments show that there is also a sleeper effect to extinction, however. That is, after a period of time, new reinforcement to previously extinguished responses will bring those responses back faster than they were learned the first time.²

Again, the lay churchman knows how this works. What happens to a church when its young, hard-charging minister leaves -

¹Winfred F. Hill, Learning, Chandler Publishing Company, San Francisco, 1963, p. 51

²Ibid, p. 154

especially, if he has driven innovation down the teeth of his parishioners? How long does it take for "extinction" to experience "resurrection"? What is called for is a continuous effort on the part of knowledgeable laymen using the principles we suggested in the "context for our message." This is not something to be entered into 'lightly, or inadvertently.'

3. Novelty.

When television first reached its many "eyes" into livingrooms throughout our land, many sociologists spoke of its "gadget" value as a media. And certainly, there are many innovations which have a motivational "pull" simply because of their uniqueness. No mediators exist for generalization. Innovation here will have to be understood through "the mechanism of novelty as a drive in itself."¹

Perhaps the only way to explain curiosity, (for this is surely what the mechanism of novelty must be), is to say that an internal $r_m - s_m$ stage is established. The r_m is the internal response produced by the stimuli from the novelty object which has its own stimulus s_m . The s_m has both an arousal, and directional motivational effect pushing the learner to explore the novelty object.

Animal and human experiments have shown that no reinforcement is needed to induce this exploratory behavior. However, some outside conditions seem to favor exploratory behavior. Boredom would seem to be a good prerequisite for exploratory behavior. There must also be freedom from pressure so that the learner is in a 'sense free to explore, i.e., he has enough time, and energy to do the exploring.

¹Howard, Op. Cit., pp. 8 - 29

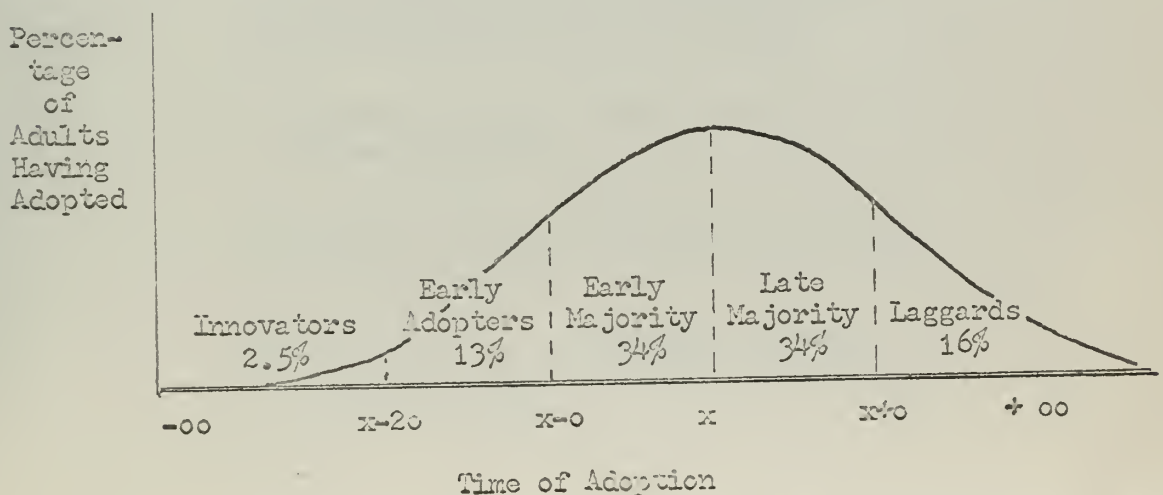
social conditioning, which is very much at work, is the level of aspiration. Our adult learner has been involved in this spiral of attempted learning, favorableness of post-decision evaluation, and rising level of aspiration, all his life. If he tried something, and he was pleased, he then raised his sights. He anticipated satisfaction, and if he received it, he raised his sights again. If not, he probably adjusted his sights somewhat lower.

Reality has a way of controlling that level of aspiration. (Ford still sells more cars than do the Cadillac dealers.) Indeed, in most experiments with novelty, it is found that this is a very short-lived drive. Almost by definition, it cannot be a long-lived drive. As soon as the stimuli are repeated, they are no longer novel.

The moral of this insight to the religious educator, who would attempt to spread innovation, is: novelty for novelty's sake is never enough!

4. Learning Characteristics of the Adopters.

The data compiled about diffusion of innovation by Everett Rogers shows that a normal distribution would be as follows:



(σ = standard deviation)

We have already mentioned that innovators tend to be outside the leadership circles of their society. It is also evident from the data that they read more than the other categories of adopters, and (being involved in the EPS), they are actively seeking information from many sources.

Rogers divided the whole adoption process into five parts:

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------|------------|-------|----------|
| Awareness | Interest | Evaluation | Trial | Adoption |
| I | II | III | IV | V |

Learning via impersonal sources is found to be most important at the awareness stage. (Innovators tend to look more to the impersonal sources.) Personal sources of information are much more important at the Evaluation stage.

Rogers went on to list some generalizations which he made, some of the more pertinent of which are listed below.¹

*Relatively later adopters are more likely to discontinue innovations than are earlier adopters.

*The awareness-to-trial period is longer than the trial-to-adoption period.

*Earlier adopters are younger, have higher social status, higher financial status, more specialized work, and different mental ability than late adopters.

*Laggards are most likely to drop out of the social system.

*Both Innovators, and Laggards are perceived as deviants by other members of the social system.

*Both Innovators, and Laggards perceive themselves as deviants from the norms of the social system.

¹Rogers, Op. Cit., p. 311

*Opinion leaders conform more closely to social system norms, have little overlap with other types of opinion leaders, and go to more impersonal sources of information than do their followers.

*The extent of promotional efforts by change agents is directly related to the rate of adoption of an innovation.

*Commercial change agents are more important at the trial stage than at any other stage, are more important for earlier adopters, than for later adopters at the trial state, and have more communication with higher-status than with lower-status members of a social system.

5. Imitative Learning.

(Howard's Projective Level and Hall's Informal Level of Learning).

By implication, a good deal, if not the majority, of innovative learning is social. Much work has been done by Homans, et al, on comparison level, and its importance on personal interaction as a medium for innovation. This student finds this work a bit impractical for our purposes. (It is like looking through a telescope the wrong way.)

Imitative behavior, however, is more easily explained. According to Miller and Dollard, copying explains the mass acceptance of early majority, and late majority adopters.

a. Copying. When one person models his behavior on that of another, we say that he is copying. He must know when his behavior is the same, and when it is not. He usually has some critic (sometimes the source) to advise him of how good his copying is.

Copying is especially important in learning on the informal level of culture as described by Hall. So much of this learning is just beneath the level of consciousness, (and that which is conscious is usually repressed again), that non-verbal learning must be employed. This is the area that William Biddle tried to deal with (he gave us some fine diagnoses, but few prescriptions) in his advising us to "reach deep into cultural patterns."¹

As most of us know it, this learning by copying has more of a Gestalt flavor to it. By copying we learn to swim, to throw a ball, to tie a necktie, (ever try telling someone how to tie a necktie?)

Copying is also the way we learn "how to go to church," "how to say our prayers," "how to react to stewardship appeals," etc.

b. Matched-dependent behavior. But copying is not exactly what happens in every such case. Sometimes copying is very much attached to the response of the model - so much so that the model's response is more important than the original cue. For example, it isn't so important to have the necktie tied in some cases, as it is to please "Mom," it is not so important to throw, as it is to throw the way an older brother says to throw.

The model may know the significance of the cue. The imitator in this case is more interested in the model's response than in the cue. The father in a family may know that when the

¹William W. Biddle, The Community Development Process, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, Inc., New York, 1965, p. 243

church bell rings, it is time to go to church. The son may hear the same bell, but not think that the father really means business until he sees that certain "set of the eye," or "tilt of the chin."

Thus, matched-dependent behavior is more complicated than simple copying. We often have to seek out the model being imitated, and identify the significant cue for the imitator, if we are to have any consistent control over the imitator's sensory integrations.

One can think of a long list of matched-dependents. There is the: employer-employee, commanding officer-subordinate, father-son, superior-inferior in the social system, master craftsman-apprentice, teacher-student, etc.

The degree of contact, the length of contact, and the social attitude toward imitating, have been found by several theorists to be important conditions. Generally, if the superior is only slightly above the imitator, the innovations seem to be adopted more rapidly.¹

Perhaps, we need to do much more observation of who imitates whom, when, and why.

c. Rumors. Gordon Allport's classic work on rumor has given us some insights, which are directly related to social learning.²

i. Leveling details of a message. Allport found that a social group could "forget," that is - lose details, more of

¹Howard, Op. Cit., pp. 8 - 75

²Gordon W. Allport and Leo J. Postman, "The Basic Psychology of Rumor" in Katz, Cartwright, Eldersveld, and Lee, Public Opinion and Propaganda, The Dryden Press, New York, 1954, pp. 394-404

a message in a few minutes than an individual can in weeks of time. We are all aware of how details get lost in rumors. But we do not always appreciate what this means to a message we are trying to communicate, when a lot of social learning is involved in its acceptance.

ii. Sharpening details of an innovation. By selective perception, retention, and reporting a limited number of details, association with environmental factors, a social group has the amazing ability to use attention-getting words, odd phrases, and symbols to pin-point the innovation.

iii. Assimilation. There is strong pressure exerted on any rumor to make the rumor more believable according to the habits, interests, and sentiments of a particular group. The essential nature of a message can, and often is, changed to fit the group's more comfortable "memory."

Rather than run away from these phenomenon, it would be better to face them, and try to work them into a strategy for innovation. Lucien Pye, a retired Marine officer, has used rumors very effectively in the Far East for effecting highly altruistic innovations.¹ He wove them into his triad of communication efforts: the technical, general cognitive, and normative changes. They, in his opinion, helped make up a good "Gestalt" when viewed realistically.

C. A Gestalt for Innovation

If, as many think, culture is in a process of

¹Lucien W. Pye, Communications and Political Development, Princeton University Press, 1963, pp. 138-202

Continual change - it follows that some change is planned, and some unplanned. When we undertake any innovation attempt, we need to do so with a certain reverence for human life, keeping very mindful of what we can change, and what we cannot change.

1. A Paradigm of Change.

Warren Bennis outlined what he saw as eight species of change. He was interested in seeing which involved mutual goal setting, and which were one-sided and in which cases, the power ration was equal, and in which cases the power ration was one-sided.¹

| | <u>Mutual Goal Setting</u> | | <u>Non-Mutual Goal Setting</u> | |
|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Power Ratio: | Deliberate by both sides | Non-deliberate by both sides | Deliberate by one side | Non-deliberate by both sides |
| Equal .5/.5 | PLANNED CHANGE | INTERACTIONAL CHANGE | TECHNOCRATIC CHANGE | NATURAL CHANGE |
| One-sided 1./0 | INDOCTRINATIONAL CHANGE | SOCIALIZATION CHANGE | COERCIVE CHANGE | EMULATIVE CHANGE |

Planned Change entails mutual goal setting (as defined by Bennis).

Indoctrination entails mutual goal setting, but in an imbalanced relationship, e.g., in schools, prisons, mental hospitals.

Coercive Change is one sided, non-mutual goal setting, e.g., "brainwashing".

Technocratic Change involves the collection, and reporting of data and the dropping of the subject.

Interactional Change involves mutual goal setting, no deliberateness, equal power, e.g., among good friends.

Socialization occurs between parent and child, change agent, and society, teacher and pupil (hopefully).

Emulative Change is formal, clear-cut, e.g., superior-subordinate relationship.

¹Warren Bennis, Op. Cit., p. 155

Natural Change is accidental.

We shan't be able to work in those areas we would most like all the time. However, it does help to be mindful of those areas which definitely would clash with our principles as Christian innovators.

2. A Checklist for Change.

Indeed, the one insight which keeps recurring to this student is the need for constant reappraisal of all our communicative efforts. Edward Spicer provides a checklist, which is especially helpful when we seek to work in a culture not our own.¹

- * What, if anything, will the introduced trait replace?
- * What other techniques, and tools are likely to (or will have to) be modified by this innovation?
- * Who in society will have to abandon or change occupations?
- * Who in society will benefit immediately, and how?
- * Who in society will suffer immediately and how?
- * Will shifts in occupation affect the division of labor - male and female?
- * What are the formal, and informal associations in which people participate? How will social organizations be effected? Is there possibility of cooperation? Conflict?
- * Do the individuals and group leaders affected, understand the nature of the introduction?
- * Who has, and who has not participated in the planning of change?
- * What customs are likely to be affected? Young vs. old? Marriage and ceremonial customs? Religious beliefs? Major values?

¹Edward H. Spicer, Human Problems in Technological Change, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 1952, p. 91

Will the change reinforce or conflict?

- * What are the attitudes toward the innovator as a person? Toward the ethnic group he represents?
- * What is the recent history between the change agents, and the people?

Most folk will agree that these may be unsettling questions. They need to be asked. The act of asking may well drive us back to the suppositions of our Christian faith that we may consider in whose name we dare speak at all. By what authority do we dare introduce any innovation? Sumner has said that the surest way to insure the solidarity of a group is "to attack it from without."¹ When we introduce an innovation, are we "attacking from without"? Actually, in terms of what we have said in this section, such a stance would be pragmatic folly. Unless we participate ourselves, we have neither the right, nor the means of guiding an innovation within a given group.

We laid down a set of principles for ourselves when we were speaking of the context of communication. It still remains that to persuade is one thing. To exploit is still another. The author of our faith attacked Jewish culture. Does anyone think He exploited His people? Jesus was a product of His culture. Though He may have imperiled it, He did not withdraw from it to attack it.²

So, too, with the "church." Isn't it strange that so many bother to "attack" the church from without? Not only is it probably the least effective form of persuasion, but it says something

¹Ibid, p. 259

²H. Richard Niebuhr, Christ and Culture, Harper, New York, 1951, p. 3

about the attackers, themselves. Paul Minear puts it very briefly, "In the New Testament era, people thought, "Christ" before they thought "Church." How different this is in America!"¹

¹Paul S. Minear, Horizons of Christian Community, Bethany, St. Louis, 1959, p. 111

CHAPTER VII: CONCLUDING GOALS

- A. A call for integrity in announced goals.
 - 1. The ministry of Christ's Church.
 - 2. The adult learner as significante.
 - 3. The proof of the pudding.
 - 4. Placebos will not do.
- B. Suggestions for the future.
 - 1. Select one point and attack with superiority.
 - 2. Know your terrain.
 - 3. Gain public opinion and follow up.

A. Call for integrity in announced goals.

Bruce Reinhart's excellent study of nine churches in the San Francisco Bay area shows that despite the verbal aims of adult learning groups their real purpose is that of institutional servicing.¹ Now this is dishonest! It is just as deceptive as it is to ask friends over for a discussion when you know very well that you intend to have them help you mow your lawn.

Churches are not alone in such deception, of course. But no matter who sponsors an announced learning program and really has another purpose in mind they equally deserve the contempt they sometimes receive.

What is so worrisome about the church sponsoring adult learning is the complexity of expectations from different groups within the church toward a learning program for adults.

As long as a church can afford it a minister of "education" may be employed. The "pastor" is usually associated with the preaching ministry. How many churches are there where the "educational" minister is the senior "pastor" in everyone's minds? So then, adult learning may mean different things to different clergy within the same church.

The church publishing houses have a financial interest in adult learning, especially the kind which uses great quantities of "quarterlies".

The denominational boards have a vested interest in adult learning, especially as it helps to train church officers, improve stewardship attitudes, etc. Some books on adult learning reflect the institutional expectations in such degree that there is no room left for any other orientation.²

1. Bruce Reinhart, The Institutional Nature of Adult Christian Education. Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1962. p.16

When some churches have tried to break away from their sponsoring institution's lecherous designs and promote adult learning on inter-church lines they often have found that indirect controls follow their efforts like tenacles. Such efforts hardly ever have a sound financial base or "risk capital" for program expenses. It is perhaps only natural that local priorities often result in support being withdrawn by individual churches when things get "tight".^{1.} Thus, Dr. Reinhart concluded from his study that the bigger church, with a multiple staff, tends to have a better program when it goes it alone.

This student has "mellowed" a bit in his attitude toward sponsoring institutions. He now admits that they are probably necessary not only for financial reasons but because a community for learning is certainly desired. In the light of what we had to say about cognitive dissonance it would almost seem malicious to set adults (particularly young adults) adrift without the support of the worshipping community.

But surely there must be more honesty on the part of the clergy, the trustees, the denominations, the various little interests groups within a church (e.g. the "ushers", women's societies, Sunday school teachers, etc.) and the learners themselves as to what, after all, is the real goal of a program of planned learning for adult Christians!

Professor Nelson summed up what the aim ought to be very succinctly - "to help adults form a proper relationship with the God of the Bible, known to us primarily in Jesus Christ."^{2.} The rub does not come so much from interpreting that goal in varying ways so much as it comes in simply forgetting that goal completely.

David Ernsberger put it this way. "In the face of all the evidence, it is impossible to escape the dismaying conclusion that the churches have been unfortunately successful in educating adults in a distorted understanding of the mission of the church."¹

Perhaps behind Ernsberger's comment there is a clue to getting us past this incessant conflict of goals. As adults more and more are actually given the ministry which the clergy has said was the property of the 'laos' all along, as adults get into this ministry it may very well be that they will cry out for planned learning experiences! The thought of trying to do counseling without any previous orientation is enough to frighten any mature person.

1. The ministry of Christ's Church, then, is the group which will want to have the most say in planning adult learning for Christians. To the extent that laymen are genuinely a part of that ministry will the aims of adult learning programs be coexistent with their most urgent needs. Certainly the ministry of a church will want to meet the needs of other adults if it is made up of adults from all walks of life and all stages of learning. This brings us to another, more subtle, insight from our discussion of communication.

2. The adult learner as significate. There is perhaps no more effective way for a professor to reinforce respect for learning than by him to be seen in the library reading a book! He identifies himself as a learner. So with the ministry of all believers - if they really are serious about planned learning for other adults - they will continue to participate as fellow-learners.

1. David J. Ernsberger, Education for Renewal, Westminster Press, '65, p.28

Not so long ago educators like the eminent Edward L. Thorndike were saying that the ablest people should come first in adult education.¹ Perhaps that has a connotation of snobbery. Perhaps it is meant in an entirely different way? Perhaps Dr. Thorndike meant that the most able people ought to lead off as signifiers, physical examples of the importance of learning.

3. The proof of the pudding. Perhaps every professional person and every tradesman have moods when they wonder if what they are doing is really worth while. It seems to this student that at times the very people most responsible for religious education policy betray their disbeliefs about the efficacy of learning. When, for example, John R. Fry can say, "People do not change. They act and react.", this is an undercutting of the whole enterprise. If this be so - then the whole business of religious education is a sham.

The student is not suggesting that anyone, layman or respected theologian, be dishonest about his doubts. He is saying that if we doubt that what we are doing makes any difference we had better consider doing something else. This is a classic example of cognitive dissonance. It is also a stringent theological issue. If any of us are caught up in this doubt about the capacity for human beings to change we had best go back and wrestle again with Augustine, Calvin, Paul and - yes - Christ!

4. Placebos will not do. In fairness to Dr. Fry, he may be reacting to the too-easy optimism of educators like Henry Overstreet.³

1. Ralph A. Beals and Leon Brody, The Literature of Adult Education, George Grady Press, New York, 1941. p.4
2. John R. Fry, Op. Cit. p.65
3. H.A. Overstreet, The Mature Mind, Norton, Inc., New York, 1949. p.35

There is much in Dr. Overstreet's affirmation of the process of living that may not seem to take into account the potential depravity of mankind.

In the climes of this seminary there has been a long and arduous debate between the rosy-cheeked "optimists" from Teachers College and the more dour neo-orthodox of European-like persuasion. And it does not appear that the debate is by any means over today. Kimball and McLellan reflect an upsurge of the belief that men, by careful planning, can educate other men toward more meaningful commitment.¹ Perhaps Dr. Fry rebels at what he may see as a renewal of Pelagian heresy within our own ranks. He would do well to recall that while Dr. Niebuhr attacked the disciples of Dewey he, himself, ran for governor on the socialist ticket.

Placebos will not do. Placebos belong in hospitals. But neither will it do for the top, policy making officials of our denominational religious education agencies to wait much longer before deciding to take adult learning seriously!

It seems to this student that there is a parable in the efforts of the space technicians at Huston, Texas. Not understanding even a fraction of the mysteries of the universe, they nevertheless are willing to gamble their lives on what they do know. Surely, much which we accepted as unchangeable about our universe has been overcome. Equally true is the possibility that we may bring down upon our own heads our scientific baals. But there is a freshness in the secular world that seems to appreciate living in God's world!

2.
Except for the "Indiana Plan" of Bergevin and McKinley, we notice

1. Kimball and McLellan, Education and the New America, Random House, New York, 1962. p.17.

2. Paul Bergevin and John McKinley, Design for Adult Education in the Church, Seabury Press, Greenwich, Conn. 1958.

little "real medicine" for adult learning - apart from isolated instances where local churches decide to take matters into their own hands and develop their own curricula.

Frankly, this student is not yet willing to throw out all of the forensic attempts described by Bronthius,¹ nor all the insights of the social scientists regarding the change possibilities not only in individual character structure but in culture itself.

Indeed, the very theme of this fleeting attempt to study communication in adult learning has been that real communication involves change?

B. Suggestions for the future.

Coming from a military environment, this student has a genuine (and hopefully restrained) respect for the old master of military strategy - Carl von Clausewitz. The tiny but respected Prussian had three principles which seem especially appropriate to any planning of learning for Christian adults.²

1. Select one point and attack with superiority.

The general had seen too many fine armies decimated by having tried to hold too long a front and engage the enemy at too many points in a single attack. (Just as some professors have seen their students try to tackle too much at one attempt!)

The one point at which this student wishes that denominational offices, local church boards, religious education faculties and erstwhile planners of adult learning would attack is in this business of communication. Along with other very fine

1. Robert H. Bronthius, Christian Paths to Self-Acceptance, King's Crown Press, New York, 1948. Chapter 2.

2. Carl von Clausewitz, Principles of War, Stackpole, Harrisburg, 1960. (original in 1812) pp. 21, 26, 45

specialized ministries there seems to be one point crying for attention - communicative understanding.

While it is said that there may be a renewal of interest in learning theory (another crying need) it seems that the only major groups to be interested in the intricacies of learning as it is seen in communication are market researchers and cultural innovation workers (overseas). The only images being efficiently projected seem to be done so by governments and corporations.

2. Know your terrain. Von Clausewitz was a master at using terrain for protection and for attack. So, it would seem, we could well use that which is so close about us in the way of more understanding. The continuing education program of clergy is a fine beginning. It at least makes the clergyman a significante of learning. Every attempt ought to be made to engage all church leaders in planned learning programs including the post-doctoral programs.

3. Gain public opinion and follow up. It is felt that the single, practical imperative coming out of this brief study is the absolute need of a communication panel in every parish. To establish a "lectionary of communication", discern projected images, be planners of innovations, evaluate learning programs requires more than the talents of any one man. Pursuit of "feedback" is signally missing in parishes and religious boards. There just is no substitute for what marines call, "completed staff work".

Enough doors have cracked open to this student in the last eight months to make him skeptical of what ever will be completed but highly motivated to "get to work".

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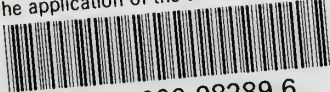
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